

Greater Glasgow and Clyde Alcohol and Drug Prevention Framework, 2020

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Policy context for Prevention and Harm Reduction

Prevention of harm from alcohol and drugs is a high level priority for Scotland, with actions required from all sectors of society to this complex and long-standing area of challenge. This is reflected in Scotland's Public Health Strategy¹, where Public Health Priority 4 (PHP4) has the following aim: "A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs". Similarly, prevention and harm reduction actions are prominent in Scottish Government strategies focused on substance misuse. These include: Rights, Respect and Recovery², a refreshed national strategy for alcohol and drugs, released in 2018, followed in 2019 by the release of the associated action plan³ and the 2018 Alcohol Framework⁴ setting out national prevention aims on alcohol.

Our framework ethos is rooted in the need for a comprehensive, whole population approach that develops and sustains action across the whole life-course, addresses underlying determinants and causative factors and focuses on inequalities and equity dimensions as integral to the response. It is also clear that only, sustained, well-resourced multi-partner responses have the prospect of making a difference, given the complex nature of the problems faced.

Most importantly, the framework will be used to complement pre-existing activity and prevention planning by helping to identify good practice, highlighting additional evidence-based approaches and helping to identify gaps and development opportunities.

¹ <https://publichealthreform.scot/publications/scotland-s-public-health-priorities>

² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/rights-respect-recovery/>

³ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/rights-respect-and-recovery-action-plan/>

⁴ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/alcohol-framework-2018-preventing-harm-next-steps-changing-relationship-alcohol/>

Development of a refreshed prevention framework for Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Over some years, the Alcohol and Drugs Health Improvement Team for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has worked with its many partners to create and utilise a prevention framework approach to guide and help improve the overall quality of prevention and harm reduction.

The evidence base for the earlier version has been refreshed a number of times, but over the last two years the decision was taken to conduct a more fundamental update of the framework – both of the main elements and also to ensure that the evidence informing good practice was updated.

We are keen that the revised framework offers continuity around major themes, whilst also taking into account of newer areas of development and approaches. Examples of the latter include the rising prominence of understanding of the impact of trauma in the early years (for example the extensive literature on adverse childhood experiences), as well as emerging work on the Whole System Approach⁵, being utilised in a number of areas of Scotland and being championed by partners such as Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland.

As with earlier versions of the prevention framework, the Health Improvement Team were keen to take a participatory approach to development, and thus created both a multi-disciplinary steering group to guide progress, as well as undertaking a range of engagement events and processes to refine the content. We also commissioned a development partner – Rocket Science – who led on the rapid literature review work and were involved in the development stages of the work that led to the suite of material that comprises the framework.

We would like to record our thanks to all colleagues and partner agencies who have contributed to development of the elements of this framework, and look forward to continued partnership work in progressing on the many aspects of future development.

Please see [Annex 2](#) for further details of the methodology adopted in creating and refining the framework as well as a listing of key members of the steering group and development teams.

Key purposes and intended audiences for the new prevention framework

The revised framework has been developed as a guide for any agency or individual within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area that has a role in planning and developing responses to the challenges presented by the alcohol and drugs agenda. It is designed to complement

⁵ <https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/our-organisation/about-public-health-scotland/supporting-whole-system-approaches/background-on-the-whole-system-approach/>

and augment formal planning approaches being progressed by Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships and their many local partners. Most importantly, it is not devised as a static resource, but one that will be added to on a regular basis, through engagement with local and national partners and in response to emerging evidence and examples of good practice.

Key purposes of the framework

- **To support the advancement of evidence-based, high-quality practice in prevention and harm reduction in the field of alcohol and drugs**
- **To promote comprehensive planned approaches, including considering and acting on needs across the full life-course and considering particular needs groups and settings – for example, the elements of the framework can be used to help SWOT-type analyses and identify both strengths and gaps in local or regional practice**
- **To aid in identifying both strengths in current areas of multi-partner working and also identify gaps in collective response – and highlight potential responses to address such gaps**
- **To highlight the importance of identifying and addressing inequalities and equalities considerations in the alcohol and drugs agenda – include upstream thinking on root causes of alcohol and drugs problems**
- **To further emphasise the need to develop and deliver effective harm reduction approaches as critical components of the overall alcohol and drugs public health response**
- **To stimulate additional activity from partners in terms of monitoring, evaluation and research in order to further grow the evidence-base for prevention and harm-reduction approaches**

Main elements of the framework and additional developments

In addition to a brief context paper (Evidence Briefing 1), the main elements of the Prevention Framework are presented below, and summarised in Table 1:

Evidence Briefing 2 presents a summary of 10 key underlying themes that the reviewed evidence shows underpin the successful delivery of alcohol and drug prevention approaches. They also illustrate the importance of cross-cutting approaches in planning and delivery of programmes, rather than attempting to deliver prevention in separate “silos” or disconnected policy areas

Evidence Briefings 3 to 8 provide a suite of six main evidence briefings focused on settings, life stages and priority groups – society-wide approaches; at-risk groups and vulnerabilities; pre-birth, infancy and early years; children and younger people; adults; older people. These elements are summarised in **Table 1** below.

On-going partnership approach

The Alcohol and Drugs Health Improvement Team will develop a new **Greater Glasgow and Clyde Alcohol and Drug Prevention Network** that will look to utilise the contents of the framework in driving future improvements in the collective prevention and harm reduction approaches in the Health Board area.

Table 1: Main Elements of the Framework		
Introduction	Evidence Briefing 1 – Context	Evidence Briefing 2 – Key Themes*
*Elements from Evidence Briefing 2		
Reducing Stigma	Asset-based and person-led approaches	Workforce development
Harm-reduction	Whole-systems approach and person-centred	Multiple risks and how they interact
Trauma-informed practice	Health Inequalities and deprivation	Community empowerment
	Evidence-informed	
Evidence Briefing 3 – Society-wide approaches	Evidence Briefing 4 – At-risk groups and vulnerabilities	Evidence Briefing 5 – Pre-birth, Infancy and Early Years
Evidence Briefing 6 – Children and Younger People	Evidence Briefing 7 – Adults	Evidence Briefing 8 – Older People
Additional elements and resources...		
Monitoring and Evaluation	Appendices (e.g. literature review sources)	Data Sources