

IJB PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE SAFER DRUGS CONSUMPTION FACILITY

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Background

- Safer Drugs Consumption Facility (SDCF) first proposed in 2016
- Draft business case presented to the IJB on 15 February 2017, with further updates in June and November 2017
- Lord Advocate declined a request for necessary legal exemptions to progress
- In 2022 GCHSCP approached to submit a new proposal for an SDCF
- Revised proposal and operational procedures submitted to implement the SDCF alongside a number of services for the target population
- In September 2023 Lord Advocate indicated willingness to publish statement of prosecution policy to waive prosecution for users of the site
- Highlighted importance of public engagement and thorough evaluation

Proposal for a SDCF

- Service to be situated in Hunter Street Health and Social Care Centre
- Service to provide clean and safe environment for injecting, alongside harm reduction
- Service users to bring their own drugs to the site
- Currently developing drug checking service with Scottish Government, to test drugs prior to injecting
- Staff on site to provide support, advice and help if required
- Proposal based on European and international evidence from existing Drug Consumption Facilities
- Removes previous proposal for inhalation rooms
- Proposed operating hours of 9am to 9pm, 365 days a year
- Running costs for pilot to be met by Scottish Government, building re-design works to be funded by GCHSCP
- Service to be managed within HSCP Alcohol & Drugs Partnership

Engagement approach

- Draft Engagement Strategy signed off by SDCF Implementation Board
- Key stakeholders identified
 1. People with lived and living experience of drug use
 2. Local communities
 3. Families, carers and their representatives
 4. Local businesses
 5. Staff
 6. IJB/Council/Health Board/Community Councils/LEFs
 7. Providers and contractors of (independent and third sector)
 8. Partner organisations
 9. Other who may have an interest
 10. Housing associations/registered social landlords.

Engagement approach

- Targeted engagement and drop in opportunities planned
- Engagement focussed on understanding fears/anxieties/benefits and opportunities
- Engagement activity prioritised according to proximity to service and interest in service
- Priority engagement (Phase 1) conducted between November 2023 and January 2024
- Engagement with wider stakeholders/city planned during priority phase, conducted from February 2024
- Engagement with service users, family, staff and relevant 3rd sector providers via ADP
- Other engagement via existing HSCP engagement resources and community channels (e.g. community councils)
- Methods and formats determined by audience
- Feedback captured, reviewed and used to inform future engagement activity

Engagement activity options

- Bespoke in person discussions and Q&A sessions (targeted and drop in)
- Existing engagement networks (e.g. Locality Engagement Forums, Recovery Communities, ADP Lived Experience Reference Groups)
- Online discussions (targeted in phase 1 and drop in for phase 2)
- Developing a HSCP dedicated webpage to leave comments, ask questions, read information etc
- ADP, HSCP, NHSGGC and Glasgow City Council social media - Twitter (X) and Facebook
- Use of surveys/comments cards to seek views and inform consideration of options.

Engagement activity so far

- Visits to/discussions with providers of similar facilities in Europe
- Attendance at Calton Community Council
- Ward 9 Elected Members
- Private housing developer
- RSLs
- Communication with staff via staff newsletters
- Harm Reduction Action Group meeting

Engagement activity planned (phase 1)

- Reaching out to local businesses within immediate vicinity
- Attendance at local Community Council meetings
- Face to face and online sessions with Alcohol & Drug Partnership staff
- Face to face and online sessions Alcohol & Drug Recovery Services staff
- Meetings with local Elected Members (Wards 10 and 22)
- Lived and Living experience reference groups for:
 - Users of addictions services
 - Families
 - Women
- Engagement with 3rd sector provider organisations
- NE, NW and South Recovery Communities

Engagement activity planned (phase 1)

- Engagement with local Registered Social Landlords
- Local faith groups/churches
- Engagement with ADP member organisations
- Meetings with Glasgow Local Area Partnerships
- Attendance Local Engagement Forum (North East)
- City Centre Engagement Group
- Mobile Harm Reduction Unit

Next steps and timelines

- Feedback from Members incorporated into Engagement Plan
- Phase 1 engagement carried out November 23 to January 24
- Phase 2 engagement planned
- Continued implementation of the Communications Strategy/Plan
- Analysis of feedback
- IJB in November to approve Strategy
- IJB in February to consider feedback of engagement
- Approach to Lord Advocate to request public prosecution statement
- Ongoing work to prepare the site for the new service
- Planning towards an opening date

Input from Members

- Feedback on engagement approach
- Suggestions for priority stakeholder engagement
- Guidance on preferred involvement of PEC in monitoring progress