

Safer Drug Consumption Facility Update on Engagement

Glasgow City IJB Public Engagement Committee

13th November 2024

Glasgow SDCF The Thistle – Progress Update

- Building works complete and NHS Assure checks underway
- Service named The Thistle by Lived Experience Alcohol Drug Partnership (ADP) Reference group members
- All posts filled - lived experience supported recruitment process
- Home Office license application for drug checking service submitted – awaiting visit
- Community, business and citywide engagement ongoing





Thistle Community Forum

**Ongoing engagement with the community will be maintained via regular meetings.
First meeting on 27th November at Hunter Street**

Membership to include:

- Police Scotland
- Local Residents rep
- Registered Social Landlord rep
- Local Business rep
- Local Councillors
- Calton Community Council
- Merchant City and Trongate Community Council
- Dennistoun Community Council
- Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability reps
- Thistle Service Management
- Recovery Community
- Alcohol and Drug Partnership
- Voluntary Sector Drug and Alcohol Agencies (VSDAA)

Phase 3 Engagement Activity

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	AUDIENCE	DATE	COMMENTS
PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE	ADP LIVED EXPERIENCE REFERENCE GROUPS	AUGUST	The naming of the service and the rooms within was discussed and debated.
LOCAL COMMUNITY	DROP IN SESSION WITH POLICE SCOTLAND	25 TH SEPTEMBER 5PM-7PM	Very busy session. Residents took the opportunity to raise concerns about local policing.
LOCAL COMMUNITY	CALTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING	10 TH OCTOBER 7PM	Keen to be involved in ongoing engagement through the Community Forum
LOCAL COMMUNITY	MERCHANT CITY COMMUNITY COUNCIL- VICE CHAIR AND SOCIAL HUB	16 TH SEPTEMBER 12.30PM	Concerned about increased footfall of people who inject drugs in the local area and the impact on local business

Phase 3 Engagement Activity

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	AUDIENCE	DATE	COMMENTS
LOCAL BUSINESS	BARRAS MARKET	23 RD OCTOBER 3PM	Keen to engage with the service and very interested in Naloxone training
REGISTERED SOCIAL LANDLORD	WHEATELY GROUP	3 RD DECEMBER	
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	WOMENS SERVICES	ONGOING	Agreed to plan women's only visits to tackle anxieties about using the service.
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	COMMUNITY PHARMACIES	ONGOING	Positive interest in how to support and refer into the service
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	HOMLESSNESS SERVICES	ONGOING	Positive interest in how to support and refer into the service

Phase 3 Engagement Activity

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	AUDIENCE	DATE	COMMENTS
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	JUSTICE SERVICES	ONGOING	Positive interest in how to support and refer into the service
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE	ONGOING	Positive interest in how to support and refer into the service
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	A&E, GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY	ONGOING	Positive interest in how to support and refer into the service
PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	ONGOING	Positive interest in how to support and refer into the service

Pre Launch Schedule

- **Date of formal opening to be confirmed once water testing concludes**
- **Sessions planned for:**
 - Key stakeholders – IJB, Elected Members, NHSGGC Board, SDCF Board, Alcohol & Drug Partnership
 - Media
 - Referring agencies
 - Women
 - Scottish Government

Engagement with Potential Service Users

- Thistle team engaging in assertive outreach
- Engaging with city centre group
- Planning pre-registration opportunities for people who inject drugs
- Communication activity is underway
 - Business card with essential info will be shared widely
 - Service user briefing, written with lived experience input, includes map
 - New video taking the viewer from the Hunter street entrance into each part of the Thistle service, with staff voiceovers explaining the process
 - Short clips of the video will be shared widely, particular focus on Injecting Equipment Providers and Street Teams

Further Information

FAQ Documents

HSCP bespoke SDCF webpage- glasgowcity.hscp.scot/sdcf



Glasgow City's Safer Drug Consumption Facility

Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership is planning to establish a Safer Drug Consumption Facility (SDCF) in Glasgow City Centre.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Safer Drug Consumption Facility (SDCF)?

Safer drug consumption facilities (SDCFs) are supervised and controlled healthcare settings where people can consume drugs, obtained elsewhere, in the presence of trained health professionals, in clean and hygienic environments reducing the risk of overdose and infectious diseases whilst offering support and access to healthcare services.

They offer a compassionate, person-centred service which focuses on reducing the harms associated with injecting drug use and helps people access appropriate services to meet their needs. By doing so, they are able to reach an extremely vulnerable group who often do not engage with our existing services.

Safer Drug Consumption Facilities are also known as Supervised Drug Consumption Rooms / Facilities (SDCR or SDCF), Safe / Supervised Injection Facilities (SIF), Safer Consumption Rooms (SCR), Overdose Prevention Sites (OPS), Drug Consumption Rooms (DCR) and Medically Supervised Injecting Rooms (MSIR).

Why are these services being proposed for Glasgow?

Following an outbreak of HIV in people who inject drugs in public places, a health needs assessment 'Taking Away the Chaos' was undertaken in Glasgow city centre. This found there are approximately 400 to 500 people injecting drugs in public places in Glasgow city centre on a regular basis. Injecting in public spaces increases the risk of infection and other drug related harms, and also causes a risk to the public from discarded injecting equipment and needles.

The report made a number of recommendations, including the introduction of a SDCF which a large body of high-quality research suggests will help reduce the health and social consequences of public injecting in the city centre. These potential benefits are described in more detail below (See 'What are the expected benefits of these services?')

Glasgow city centre is the focus of the proposal since local evidence tells us that this area has a high concentration of people who inject drugs in public places, especially in the south-eastern area. Locating the facility in the area where public injecting is already taking place will maximise uptake by the target population.

Safer Drug Consumption Facility

Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is working with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) and other partners to develop a pilot Safer Drug Consumption Facility (SDCF). This will be the first Safer Drug Consumption Facility in Scotland and the United Kingdom.

SDCFs are supervised healthcare settings where people can inject drugs, obtained elsewhere in the presence of trained health professionals in clean, hygienic environments. The service aims to reduce the negative impact that injecting outdoors has on local residents, communities and businesses, reduce the harms associated with injecting drugs on individuals and support people to access help to improve their lives.

The SDCF is due to open in 2024 and will be the first of its kind in the UK.



Stories from service users, families and professionals



Service user information



Families information



Local communities information



Background information



Engagement information



Frequently asked questions

THANK YOU

glasgowcity.hscp.scot/sdcf