

**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
ALCOHOL AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP**

Finance Meeting

Minute of meeting held on 22nd September 2021 at 2.30pm via Teams

Present:

- Grahame Clarke, ADP Chair**
- Penny Halliday, New ADP Chair**
- Lorna Campbell, Homelessness DG Council**
- Julie White, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership**
- Audrey Lowrie, Safeguarding Manager, DG Council**
- Andrew Carnon, Consultant in Public Health, NHS D&G**
- Valerie White, Director of Public Health, NHS D&G**
- Graham Stewart, Deputy Director of Finance, NHS D & G**
- Emma Dodds, Police Scotland**
- Avril Dickie**
- Jackie Aindow, Service Manager, SDAS**
- Stephen Thompson, Councillor**
- Vikki Binnie, Community Justice Partnership Manager**
- Gail Guest, Locality Manager, Criminal Justice Social Work**

Apologies:

- Jackie Davies, ADP Strategic Lead**
- Andy Hunstone, Deputy Governor, HMP Dumfries**
- Stephen Morgan, Senior Manager Children and Families**
- Angela Tait, DWP**
- Craig Hope, DWP**
- Norma Austin Hart, Third Sector**
- Gordon Pattinson, Manager, Public Protection, D & G Council**

Attending: **Helen Wood, Public Health Admin (Minute)**

Item	
1.	<p>Welcome and introductions Grahame C welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Finance Grahame C noted this meeting was to discuss the Paper that sets out for consideration and agreement by this ADP Executive Group the proposed solutions to deliver the policy priorities identified by the Scottish Government’s additional Allocation to ADPs this financial year and for the following 4 years.</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss and agree the proposed investment solutions for the policy initiatives put forward. • Understand the potential risk of returning funding that is not utilised in year to the Scottish Government. • Agree the approach set out in the paper of proposing to demonstrate the balance in-year is committed to future periods of the programmes identified.

The SG letter confirms that D & G ADP will receive the following additional direct funding for 2021-22 and that this uplift will be sustained until 2026. SG has indicated that a draft Whole Family Approach Framework will be published in September 2021 to advise on the expectations and implementation of Whole Families Approach Priorities. This Framework has now been published and will need to be considered urgently in an effort to identify how this funding will be spent.

- £149,599 to support priorities of the National Mission
- £149,599 to support access to Residential Rehabilitation
- £83,642 to support implementation of Whole Family Approaches
- £119,679 to increase the access to Buvidal
- £89,759 to expand effective Assertive Outreach
- £89,759 to expand and improve Near Fatal Overdose Pathways
- £14,960 to expand and improve the reach and voices of those with lived experience via Lived and Living Experience Panels

In addition, the paper also detailed the various funds that have been set up nationally and to which applications can be made for funding.

- £3.5m to implement Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards which will be available by application to the SG MAT Standards Implementation Team. This fund will run annually until 2025 with no closing date and multiyear and joint bids are encouraged.
- £0.4m for Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) which will be available by application to the SG MAT Standards Implementation Team.
- £2m for an Improvement Fund to expand and improve local services which will be available by application to the CORRA Fund. Closing date is noon on 14th October 2021. The fund will be run annually until 2025.
- £3m for an Improvement Fund to support Residential Rehabilitation Projects which will be available by application to the CORRA Fund. Closing date is noon on 14th October 2021. The fund will be run annually until 2025.
- £3m for a Children and Families Fund to expand and improve services for those impacted by a loved one's drug use. Again, this will be available by application to the CORRA Fund. Closing date is noon on Thursday 4th November 2021. The fund will be run annually until 2025.

Penny asked, based on the funding model, how will ADP be able to put MAT Standards in place by April 2022. Grahame C noted that, as described in the paper, we will submit an application to the SG Fund. This application will be based on the risk assessment around MAT Standards that was requested by the SG and had been completed within D & G. Grahame continued that the risk assessment would trigger contact from SG to offer support that would be appropriate to the risk assessment. Grahame C noted that, as discussed at the last ADP meeting, we need to form a SLWG to take forward that piece of work and develop it.

Grahame C advised he has had a discussion with 3rd sector providers that are interested in bidding, and to continue to engage with anyone who wants submit bids. Contact has already been made with CORRA to discuss the bids that will be submitted.

Graham S referred to the letter from SG which sought assurance around how the additional monies would be spent. Graham S reiterated that the paper circulated today would commit these additional funds moving forward and that we already had a 3 year plan for the baseline allocation and Programme for Government Funding. Graham noted we will do the same thing with this allocation and tell the SG what our plans are to utilise this funding. This strategy is detailed in the paper and acknowledges the potential risks to the ADP. The delay in the allocation from SG may also mean that some of the funding for this year would require to be extended by 9 or 10 months, as a carry forward.

Stephen noted the overall outcome is to tackle the drugs issue and asked are we being broad enough and are we making the most of every opportunity that is on the table.

Audrey noted funding around prevention and education and felt that good links could be made, particularly on some of the ongoing work around the work in schools which involved awareness raising for young people and training for staff. Grahame C felt this would be useful and that there was the opportunity to make an application to one of the bid in funds or it was possible that funding for this could be found from within the existing ADP budget.

Gail asked how confident we are of the priorities? As we move forward with future decisions and evaluation we need to move into a more planned approach. Grahame C felt that the papers submitted to the last ADP meeting set out clearly the immediate priorities for the ADP in terms of MAT Standards and Residential Rehab and that the funding priorities identified within the paper took ample consideration of these.

Grahame C noted the way the money has been allocated to the ADP was not ideal in terms of the multitude of different funds and the fact that it had been allocated to us midway through the financial year. However, the letter from SG made it clear that we needed to supply clarity around how the money would be spent or risk losing the funding. Grahame C noted that each of the proposals detailed within the paper would require to be evaluated in terms of outcomes and reported to SG. Due to the timescales involved it was not possible to do this ahead of the meeting but that this would be done in due course.

Action: Outcomes and Evaluation Framework for the agreed proposals to be set once the posts have been filled.

Julie noted we need to be clear on the risks, we have talked on focusing on the service delivery part of things but we need to focus on Residential Rehab, MAT Standards and Assertive Outreach and the plan around them. We need to consider the 3 areas given the Public Health crisis on drug related deaths and non fatal overdose. As an ADP we need to be clear on what we are offering people and their families and that it is addressing gaps we have previously identified.

Penny asked how the priorities in the paper had been identified? Grahame C indicated that the priorities had been identified as a result of the priorities detailed within the new National Mission and were detailed in the SG funding letter. The direct funding and bid-in funds were ringfenced for specific priorities and could only be spent on these areas. As such, the keys issues of residential rehab, MAT Standards and Assertive Outreach, along with service improvement formed the basis of the priorities in the paper with the aim of preparing for the challenges around each of these.

Lorna noted homelessness may be an area for potential funding but that it would be a challenge to get an application submitted by Oct. Grahame C noted that in previous communications Lorna had stated that it would be year 2 of Housing First before the

partners around the table would understand fully the extent of the support for drug and alcohol users. As the CORRA funds would be open each year until October it would be possible to make a further bid next year once the landscape of Housing First became clear.

Julie noted it would be useful to give an update on the funding as there are other National pots.

Grahame C summarised the funding that had been made available directly to the ADPs and the additional monies that will be available via a variety of funding applications during 2021-22 and continuing through to 2026. He detailed the amounts involved as per the paper that had been circulated ahead of the meeting. It was also indicated that the various criteria for applications were also detailed within the paper and that at the moment only 1 bid per organisation could be made to each of the CORRA funds per year, while a number of applications could be made to the SG funds. As such, Grahame C was happy to consider any additional bids from members around the table.

Gail noted it is useful to get more detail but that a more strategic overview of the priorities for the ADP would have been helpful. Grahame C replied that the papers had been circulated over a month ago seeking comment from members and that any members with concerns or suggestions about how the funding would be used had ample opportunity to raise these. Grahame C felt that the papers previously circulated detailed the background, challenges and rationale for the paper circulated today and that the key decisions were around the preparedness and contingency for future challenges such as MAT Standards and residential rehab. Gail agreed that with the audit and evaluation of the proposed priorities was helpful and would ensure that the services were delivering what they should.

Penny noted refreshing the strategy and restarting the forward planning group would be a useful development in the future. Normally we would identify our outcomes and have evidence to submit a bid, however, as the priorities for the National Mission were clearly identified we have been limited to what we can do with the additional funding. Penny asked there was any possibility in deferring some of the decisions today as further meetings to discuss these may be helpful?

Penny noted she would like a decision on Buvidal as this seems to be showing a certain amount of success. Penny was keen to approve the funding for Buvidal based on the fact that would allow us to have enough money for the people who are receiving Buvidal at the moment and to extend to more people who haven't had access to that treatment. Penny also felt she would like to support the funding proposal and application for Residential Rehab, to improve this offering within D & G.

Grahame C indicated that we were limited to what we could defer as we had to provide an overview of our spending plans to SG by 29th September 2021. While it was possible that there could be some amendment made to the overview submitted it was important that we could show that the funding was fully committed in order to minimise any risk of the funding being lost. Grahame C indicated that the applications for the CORRA Children and Families Fund were open until 4th November 2021 and that there was perhaps more time to consider an application.

Valerie noted it is clear the MAT standards need to be implemented. This is a key area needing taken forward. We need to agree that goes ahead.

Jackie noted that the Specialist Drug and Alcohol Service (SDAS) would struggle to meet the challenges of the National Mission requirements around MAT Standards,

Residential Rehab and Assertive Outreach from within existing resources. As such, the ADP funding proposals were essential to enable the challenges to be met while the national funding applications would enable an enhancement of these services.

Current applications to CORRA and SG Funds

Jackie explained that the bid to the CORRA Improvement Fund was for a Wellness/Drop-in hub that would be used to support clients in recovery and also to support the delivery of MAT Standards and Residential Rehab in terms of pre and post support. The building identified is the old Lochside Clinic in Dumfries and that this could be used for the pilot delivery in the east. It was hoped that the hub could be extended into the west in coming years but that, as an interim measure, the We Are With You (WAWY) mobile outreach vehicle could be used to support the delivery of this service. This would ensure equity across the region. It was hoped that if the initial bid was successful, a further bid could be submitted this time next year.

Grahame C explained that the bid to SG Residential Rehab fund would be made jointly with WAWY and would enable the delivery of a more holistic and extensive service throughout the region to support Residential Rehab. This submission was being finalised and would be forwarded to SG shortly.

Grahame C also updated members that WAWY intended to make a separate bid to CORRA which would be supported by the ADP for 4 peer recovery worker posts to support the wider ROSC model within D & G, working across all services.

Members were also reminded that there was the opportunity to make an application to the CORRA Children and Families fund by 4th Nov. It was intimated that the SG had recently circulated the revised Framework for the Children and Families Fund and that some information had been requested from each ADP. Avril stated that she had received the document and would be keen to submit an application. Both Penny and Audrey were supportive of this and agreed to meet to discuss this further.

Action: Penny, Audrey & Avril to meet to discuss an application to the CORRA Children and Families Fund ahead of the deadline on 4th November 2021.

It was agreed that the SG Framework would be re-circulated to members for comment, so that a response could be sent to SG.

Action: ADP Support Team SG Children and Families Framework to be re-circulated to members for comment and response to SG.

Members were also reminded that the SLWG for MAT Standards would also be submitting a bid to SG Fund once the group had been established and had the opportunity to consider the impact of MAT Standards within D & G.

Grahame C indicated that he was happy to take any comments or suggestions in relation to the above applications should members wish to do so.

Stephen noted no issues with the bids put forward, however, he felt it was important that the applications incorporated the leanings from COVID in terms of service delivery. Penny noted that it was important that the balance between face to face and virtual appointments was taken into account on a case by case basis. Jackie commented that this was the case and that flexibility was the key to reducing the risk of relapse. She continued that the number of clients had risen from 545 to 860 in just over a year with no extra staff within SDAS and that flexibility in service delivery was vital.

Members were supportive of the 3 applications made and the 2 that would be submitted however, again Grahame C asked for any comments or suggestions to be made as soon as possible.

Direct funding to D&G ADP

Residential Rehab

As per the paper, this money would be used to increase the number of people that are supported in Residential Rehab placements. The alternative was that this money be used to provide additional staff to support the process but this would only allow the recruitment of 2 Band 6 nurses with some additional money left over. It was felt that using this money to increase the number of placements was more effective. However, as per the paper provided to the last ADP meeting, this was not a substantial amount and may only fund a small number of placements depending on treatment needs.

Jackie noted that it depends on the assessment of the individual. Penny noted it is really important to meet the needs to benefit residential rehab; we would need to be clear about thresholds for treatment and about the available budget because we could raise expectations. Jackie noted we need to have a process in place to evaluate if the person is getting the right treatment. Penny felt that it was important that we managed expectations around the numbers that could access residential rehab and that, for example, elected members should be advised that not everyone would be able to access RR, given the small numbers involved. This would ensure that elected members could manage expectations of families if they were approached. Jackie noted it's very important to get the process right; there is a lot of consultation going on to make sure we are taking everything into account.

Whole Family Approach

Avril noted the draft framework is hugely welcome and up to date; it looks at the definition of whole family approach. Avril is keen to catch-up with Audrey and Penny to look at submitting a CORRA application. Grahame C noted one of the suggestions is that we look at recruiting a post working in ADP; this gives us the opportunity to conduct the research detailed within the framework. This would allow the new post to assume a portfolio for wider children and families within the ADP while providing additional resilience within the ADP Support Team. It was suggested that this could be a fixed term post for 23 months. Avril felt that it may be a better option to spend this money examining the needs of families rather than using it for a temporary post. There was some discussion about exactly what this money could be used for and it was agreed that Penny, Avril and Audrey also discuss this at the meeting to discuss the CORRA funding for children and families.

Action: Penny, Avril and Audrey to discuss Whole Family Approach at the meeting to discuss the CORRA Funding for children and families.

Increase access to Buvidal

This will be used to increase the number of Buvidal clients within SDAS. It is estimated that it would allow a further 24 clients to receive Buvidal in addition to the existing 60. However, the pilot programme for Buvidal within D & G is jointly funded by CORRA, NHS D & G and D & G ADP. It will be important to ensure that moving forward there is sufficient funding to retain existing clients on Buvidal and that the additional funding can be used to increase this cohort. Jackie also noted that the Pharmacist overseeing the programme was only in post until June 2022 and that this would also require to be considered. It was agreed that Grahame C would write to Justin Murray seeking assurance round about the Buvidal funding moving forward.

Action: Grahame C to write to Justin Murray seeking assurance around the Buvidal funding moving forward.

Expand Lived and Living Experience

Grahame C noted we would continue to support lived and living experience panels in terms of service design and delivery as well as other key areas. The money would be used to support these groups in terms of venue hire, travel etc.

National Mission, Assertive Outreach & Non-fatal Overdose

Grahame C noted that this funding would be used to recruit additional posts within SDAS to provide resilience for MAT Standards, Residential Rehab and Assertive Outreach without the bids which had been discussed earlier. It was felt that this provided contingency for a minimum standard of service while the bids, if successful, would provide a more expansive and more engaging service across the region. It was, however, important that contingency was made for the bids being unsuccessful. The aim was to merge these new posts with the existing Assertive Outreach team to provide a flexible unit to deliver key services in each of the areas detailed. Each of these areas could then be augmented if the applications to CORRA and SG are successful.

Members discussed the direct funding proposals and were supportive of the 5 applications made. Again, Grahame C asked for any comments or suggestions to be made as soon as possible.

AOB

Vikki asked if we can consider Arrest Referral. Grahame C commented that this was built into the existing WAWY contract but that the service was not fully operational within Police offices as a result of the covid restrictions. Some referrals were being made, however, these were made by the custody teams and it would be preferable for workers to engage with the prisoners within the cell areas. Grahame C indicated that he would discuss this further at the WAWY contract monitoring and update members in due course.

Action: Grahame C to discuss Arrest Referral at contact monitoring with WAWY and update members.

Vikki asked is there any under spend in ADP as the Community Justice Partnership is keen to support the Families Outside Project and ADP support would be appreciated. Grahame C and Vikki will discuss further.

Closure of Meeting

Grahame C thanked members for their contributions and patience at today's meeting and indicated that the next meeting would be chaired by Penny in her new role as ADP Chair.