



HISTORY OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUMMARY (2008)

Compiled by Stephen McMurray

Introduction

This summary updates information presented in 'The Position of Joined up for Jobs Target Groups' report in 2005. This report considered each target group and in addition to the categories below included; overlaps between the different target groups, perceived gaps in service provision, information gaps, and conclusions and recommendations. This report is available from CCP.

Scope

In 2006/07, there were **1,091** new individual patients/clients reported with drug misuse problems in the city of Edinburgh (Scottish Drugs Misuse Database). This represents individuals who are attending the service for the first time ever or it has been at least 6 months since the last attendance at the service. Therefore the figures are likely to underestimate the number of drug misusers, as the number of continuous service users will not be included as well as drug misusers who do not attend services. A more realistic estimation is a minimum of **7,537** drug misusing adults in the City of Edinburgh (Action Team).

<u>TARGET GROUP</u>	<u>NUMBER IN EDINBURGH</u>	<u>NOT WORKING</u>	<u>SOURCES</u>
History of Substance Abuse	Likely to be at least 8,000	2,632 on IB/SDA, 91% not employed.	DWP 2007, SDMD 2007

Definition

Substance abuse can be defined as a pattern of harmful use of any substance, generally alcohol and/or drugs.

Employment

The SDMD in 2007 indicates that only **9%** of new clients/patients were in employment. **67%** were unemployed and the rest were either getting support into employment, students, sick, in prison or other.

Benefits

Mental and Behavioural Disorders due to Psychoactive Substance use - (August 2006 – By principle disability)

Drug Abuse	1,480
Alcohol Abuse	1,060

Source: DWP

Barriers to Employment

- Lack of school and work-related qualifications.
- Social problems.
- Possible criminal record would put employers off.
- Stigma would put employers off.
- Apprehension about coming off benefits.
- Ill health.
- Legislative changes which give employers greater access to past criminal activities of employees.
- Lack of knowledge of the local labour market.

Employability Services

Most relevant likely to be:

- **Bethany** – Provides training in English, Maths, IT, life skills and job seeking skills. Also provides volunteering opportunities.
- **Employment, Advice & Support Service** – Working with individuals with barriers ranging from criminal records, learning disabilities, mental health, physical disabilities and drug & alcohol issues. A benefits adviser is available to alleviate any concerns over benefits and support is given to the individual in the work place if required.
- **Progress2work** – Operated by Apex Scotland. Undertaking a variety of tasks, including helping clients access support to improve literacy and numeracy, assist clients to access funding for clothes and other items in relation to starting work, challenge perceptions of training and employment.
- **Sorted** – 12 week programme focussing on; timekeeping and attendance, organisation and planning skills, working to deadlines, reliability and team working, individual responsibility. Each student at the end of the programme will have achieved the following modules; communications, motivations, employability, personal development.
- **Transition** – Offers a weekly programme of activities, including; computer training, confidence building, skills training, personal development. Structured programme of accredited modules, aim to move people into employment, training and further education, through a package of learning and access to work placements.
- **Turning Point Scotland** – Operates the Chrysalis Project, which provides a minimum of nine hours input per week, for 12 weeks, covering both one-to-one and groupwork, looking at drug issues, offending issues and education/training opportunities as well as offering "softer" inputs such as complimentary therapies.

Further Reading

Cebulla et al. (2004) Drug and alcohol use as barriers to employment, Loughborough University

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