



Outer Hebrides Alcohol & Drug Partnership

Community Consultation Report November 2011

Index

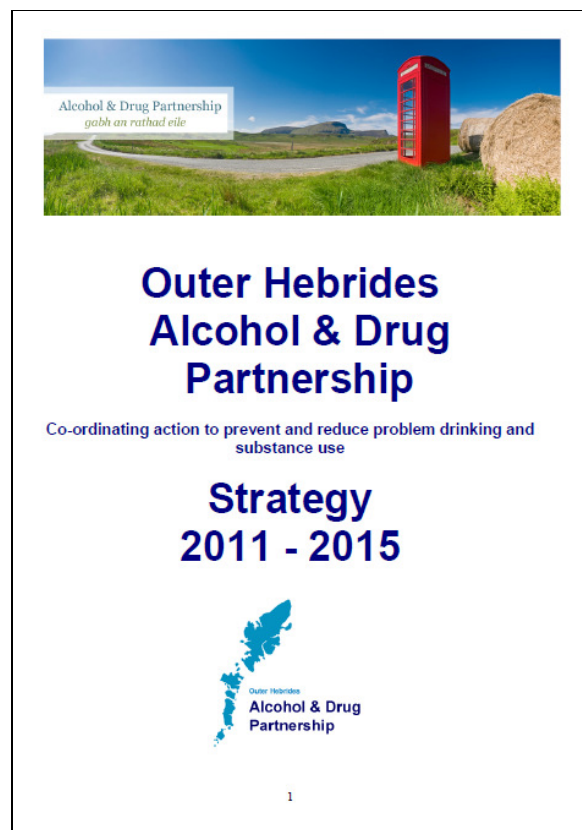
1. Introduction	page 3
2. Process	page 4
3. Main points arising:	
i. Barra	page 7
ii. Uist	page 9
iii. Harris	page 11
iv. Lewis	page 13
4. Further information	page 14

1. Introduction

Following the publication of the Outer Hebrides Alcohol & Drug Partnership (ADP) 2011 – 2015 strategy, a series of community consultations were held across the Outer Hebrides to islands to inform and consult with local communities regarding the future developments of services based on the new strategic priorities and outcomes for 2012 – 2015.

The Outer Hebrides ADP strategic priorities 2012 – 2015 are as follow:

- Early Years
- Early Intervention
- Problem drinkers and substance users
- Assist in the promotion of a healthier Outer Hebrides



2. Process

Meetings were organised across the Outer Hebrides, as detailed below:

- Monday 22nd August at 6pm - Castlebay Community Hall
- Monday 29th August at 6.30pm – Balivanich Community Hall
- Wednesday 31st August at 6pm – Tarbert, venue to be confirmed
- Thursday 1st September at 6pm – Bridge Centre, Stornoway

i. Publicity

In order to ensure all interested service providers, service users, community group representatives, local people and interested parties were aware of the meetings, the ADP Support team widely publicised them through various means.

Adverts were placed in local papers and on partner websites, such as NHS Western Isles. Emails were sent to all distribution lists, the NHS Western Isles Communications Manager issued a press release which was printed in local papers and issued on local radio. This NHS press release was also reissued ahead of each of the meetings.

ii. Format

Meetings were structured to provide information on the 2011-2015 Strategy but also gather views on service development. In order to achieve this it was decided the meetings would be structured to include a formal presentation followed by a question and answer session, please see example on following page.

Programme	Speaker	Approx Time
Welcome	Chief Inspector Gordon Macleod, Outer Hebrides ADP Chair	6.00pm
Presentations and Discussions		
Outer Hebrides Alcohol & Drug Partnership	Chief Inspector Gordon Macleod, Outer Hebrides ADP Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADP overview and Outer Hebrides strategic priorities presentation • Discussion 	6.05 – 6.30
Local Situation: Alcohol and Drugs	Fiona Macdonald ADP Substance Misuse Information and Research Officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Statistics, presentation • Discussion 	6.30 – 6.45pm
Community Planning Partnership	Colin Gilmour NHS Health Improvement Manager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership working – planning and delivery of outcomes presentation • Discussion 	6.45 – 7.15
Conclusion: How can we work together to achieve the strategic priorities of the Outer Hebrides Alcohol Drug Partnership in Lewis?	Chief Inspector Gordon Macleod, Outer Hebrides ADP Chair	7.15 – 7.30

Due to the size of the meetings the format of the evenings varied; In Harris and Barra due to small numbers a structured discussion format was used rather than a presentation whereas in Uist and Stornoway where there were a high number of attendees were higher a formal

presentation was delivered followed by a question and answer session, as planned.

iii. **Feedback gathered**

A total of 42 participants attended the meetings, as detailed below;

	No. of participants
Barra	5
Uist	12
Harris	4
Lewis	21
Total	42



(L-R) Wendy Ingledew, ADP Coordinator; Colin Gilmour, NHS Western Isles Health Promotion Manager; Alasdair Macleod, ADP Administrator; Chief Inspector Gordon Macleod, ADP Chair; Fiona Macdonald, ADP Substance Misuse Information and Research Officer

3. Main Points Arising

i. Barra

The group were informed that attendance may be low due to other meetings being held in Barra on that night.

Main points raised by this group are listed below:

- Attendees queried the levels of both NHS and ADP provision in Barra. Stated that provision of island wide service statutory services do not give Barra the services that they should have. Stated that Uist services do not cover Barra as they should.
- Discussion around ADP funded services covering Barra discussed throughout meeting.
- Request that existing services in Barra are made aware of substance services available to residents of Barra and how to refer. Suggested that this would help local agencies to make assessment of what is being provided and where they consider the gaps to be in service provision.
- Discussion around ADP funded services and the allocation Barra and the Uists.
- Issue raised of services that are based elsewhere, e.g. Uist and Lewis, being cancelled regularly due to bad weather.
- Request that a dedicated substance post be set up.
- Query around Barra presentation on the ADP subgroup. Current Barra rep said she is regularly unable to make meetings due to work commitments. Role of video conferencing and other technology discussed.
- Request for separate ADP Barra sub group to be set up. At the moment it is a Uist and Barra sub group and there are issues with capacity to attend due to travel to Uist.

- Query relating to family alcohol problems in Barra and the role of social work. Discussion followed on the focus of the ADP strategy on early years and early intervention followed. Gordon Macleod gave details of ADP work on CAPSM model.
- Discussed the possibility of setting up group in Barra to discuss and those present agreed they would look into this in order to move forward OHADP funding bids.
- Issue of young people and alcohol raised – it was explained that Barra currently has a problem with young people drinking underage at dances, example given of Northern Constabulary shutting down a dance due to 40 out of the 60 young people present being intoxicated. Discussion on licensing dances followed.
- Discussion on current low alcohol related discharge statistics for people in Barra and Vatersay led to further discussion on possible service gaps and why people may not be accessing or presenting to services.
- In response to the question, what support could the Outer Hebrides ADP provide? The following suggestions were provided:
 - 'Information'
 - 'Evaluation and needs analysis could be supported by the ADP' Offered use of Barra Youth Cafe Facebook site for future ADP Needs Assessment.

ii. Uist

- Discussion around Uist alcohol related discharge statistics and the treatment of alcohol issues in the Uists. Issue of home detoxes and treatment in the community raised; issue of capacity raised. Query over ability to safely carry out a number of detoxes at the same time according to regulations as there must be at least 2 visits a day. Suggestion that another Substance post be set up in Uist.
- Discussion around children affected by parental substance use and how services, including Children and Families, work together to address issues. Gordon Macleod discussed CAPSM model and Wendy Ingledew suggested work on parenting skills and resilience for young people may be required, in line with the ADP 2011 – 2015 Strategy.
- Issue over taxi drivers bringing alcohol to homes of people with alcohol problems locally raised.
- Suggestion that a group be set up which investigates and organises a data sharing partnership between agencies.
- Suggestion that work be done on alcohol education to try and change the local drinking culture.
- Discussion on how to best organise services locally; covered how to reach people who drink heavily but do not consider themselves to have a problem and also how to change culture of drinking heavily for 2 days at weekend and considering it a normal part of life? Agreement that culture change would not happen overnight but requires a practical approach.
- Agreement that partnership approach is required in order to work effectively and change culture in area.
- Suggestion to set up a partnership group in order to evaluate and bring forward relevant OHADP funding requests.

In response to the question of what the OH ADP can do to address issues in Uist, the following responses were provided:

- A culture change is needed
- Suggestion that monthly information sharing meetings be re-established to ensure needs of clients are being met
- Suggestion that befriending services be developed



ADP Community consultation, Uist

iii. **Harris:**

- Feedback from GP that detox is easier now as they now have more support. Stated that people don't generally go from Harris Stornoway for detox and the most common admission to hospital from alcohol is alcohol related illnesses such as heart disease and liver disease. Discussion around the low number of liver related problems in the Outer Hebrides and why this may be.
- Query on alcohol and education in schools in relation to Curriculum for Excellence answered and developed into discussion on harmful drinking in families. GP stated they gather information on number of detoxes carried out and whether patients have dependant children and offered Fiona Macdonald access to this information, if required. Fiona Macdonald to follow up.
- Stated Harris does not have local therapeutic services for people to use. Discussion on demand for such a post and evidencing this need followed.
- Suggestion that divisionary activities are set up for communities, e.g. football and sporting activities to divert young people away from risk taking behaviour e.g. sports, running club, tennis court these sorts of things. Suggested that there is room for research to find out what the youngsters are interested in.
- Issue of taxi drivers and shops selling alcohol to people with alcohol problems raised.
- Agreement from those present that the community has to come on board and change the way it views alcohol to bring about a culture change. Discussion on how to bring this about and how sport influences positive behaviour change and how best to evidence this. Suggestions included positive divisionary activities such as a running club and other sports facilities.

iv. **Stornoway**

- Feedback that there is a lot of drug and alcohol use in younger age group and above and people don't see it as a problem; that cannabis and speed use have become normalised for certain groups including younger people and older men.
- Comment that the Choices for Life event, although positive, should be done with an older age group. Gordon Macleod updated group on the Global Rock Challenge and the possibility of the Outer Hebrides taking part.
- Query over why the Outer Hebrides have a different pattern of drinking to elsewhere in Scotland and if research has been done into this issue? Discussion on minimum alcohol pricing and its perceived benefits followed. Comment on how if people start binge drinking at an early age they are more likely to experience alcohol related health problems later on. Suggestion there may be a gap in service for support for very young people starting to experience alcohol problems.
- Suggestion that culture, local attitudes to alcohol and the trend of people drinking more alcohol at home prior to going out to pubs in evening increases local problem
- Support voiced for supported accommodation and the need for local residential supported accommodation.
- Comment that there is a gap in service for children whose parents have a drug or alcohol problem and young people who are carers for parents or siblings due to substances.
- Suggestion that the ADP website could be used as an information point for schools and education staff.
- Suggestion that how information is shared between agencies should be addressed in the ADP Strategy. Discussion on CAPSM

- Issue around a lack of supported tenancies for young people, those with alcohol problems and vulnerable adults raised. Concern expressed that young people in temporary accommodation are vulnerable. Comment that there are currently accommodation and support problems for young people affected by substance misuse of parents. Support voiced from various agencies present for supported accommodation and a request for more funding for this. Suggestion that specific supported accommodation for those aged 16 – 18years is required as there is currently a lack of support for this group and a 24/7 support worker or supported accommodation is required as young people tend to start drinking later at night.
- Comment that there is also an issue for older men with alcohol problems who do not want to engage with housing support and issues spiral as they cannot gain accommodation. There is an issue with people given houses then being evicted due to antisocial behaviour and being unable to sustain a tenancy. Point raised that some tenants do not want to engage with support services so how can this be avoided?
- Comment that mental health support is an issue in relation to housing support.
- Issue around lack of services offered in rural areas and cost of buses and accessibility of Stornoway based services raised by Lifestyle, who currently fund bus fares but experience problems with clients who live in rural areas and their ability to access services.
- Support for employment based initiatives raised and the psychological benefits of employment raised.
- Unemployment raised as an issue along with alcohol as a social support as it gives people a social circle. Comment that there is a need for alternative activities in local areas and the town that doesn't involve alcohol.

For further information please contact:

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