



Realising Scotland's ambitions for improving the lives of people with co-occurring mental health and substance concerns: Putting evidence into practice



# Agenda

| Time    | Торіс   | Lead  |
|---------|---|---|
| 9.50am  | Welcome and introductions   | Clare Morrison, Director of Engagement and<br>Change, Healthcare Improvement Scotland<br>Lisa Scholin, University of Edinburgh, co-convenor<br>of Drugs Research Network Scotland |
| 9.55am  | Setting the scene (video remarks)   | Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Drugs & Alcohol<br>Policy and Sport  |
| 10.05am | How Healthcare Improvement Scotland is supporting change across mental health and substance use | Clare Morrison  |
| 10.20am | Chicken and egg   | Tracey McFall, Chief Executive Officer, Scottish<br>Recovery Consortium   |
| 10.30am | From Dual Diagnosis to CoSUM:  Are we finally making progress on service integration?           | Dr Iain Smith, Consultant Psychiatrist, NHS Forth<br>Valley, co-author of Rapid Review and member of<br>CoSUM working group   |
| 10.45am | Mental Health and Substance Use; the need for equity  | Professor John Crichton, Medical Director,<br>Mental Welfare Commission   |
| 11.00am | Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Research,<br>University of Hull                          | Professor Thomas Phillips, Professor of Nursing in<br>Addiction and Director, Centre for Addiction and<br>Mental Health Research  |
| 11.25am | Break   |   |
| 11.45am | Breakout Discussion   | Healthcare Improvement Scotland   |
| 1.00pm  | Lunch   |   |
| 1.30pm  | Close   |   |

# Drugs Research Network for Scotland

- Founded in 2017 and hosted at University of Stirling
  - Hosting moved to University of Edinburgh in 2023
- Aim to foster knowledge exchange between creators, contributors and users of research
- Core focus is knowledge exchange across the year:
  - 4 seminar events on diverse topics
  - 1 annual conference (4 June 2026)
  - Generation of 1 rapid review



# Drugs Research Network for Scotland

- Event held in November 2023 to gather views on research priorities
- Guides our activities and events
- Four key areas:
  - Harms and drug-related deaths (e.g. surveillance and monitoring, integrating technology, stigma and social determinants)
  - Treatment and recovery (e.g. Buvidal, ACEs and trauma informed care)
  - Legal changes (policing strategies, legislation and harm reduction)
  - Drugs as medicine (e.g. psychedelics and cannabis in mental health care and pain management)



#### **Event Report**

Priorities for Scottish Drugs Research

#### Background

Drug-related harms, including drug-related deaths, continue to affect people who use drugs, families, communities, and the wides codely. There is an ongoing need to generate and use evidence to inform delivery of the National Mission on Drug Deaths and to keep people who use drugs aske. With recent policy developments, such as de facto decriminalisation of possession of drugs for personal use, and growing interest in the role of currently illegal substances as treatments for chronic health conditions there is a need to further focus future drugs research on areas that can have an impact on the Sottish population.

The Drugs Research Network for Scotland (DRNS) is funded by the Scotlish Government to support the development of collaborative working and knowledge exchange in drugs research. DRNS held an online event on 17 November 2023 to gather views from those engaged with the network to discuss research priorities for Scottish drugs research. This report summarises identified priorities across four broad themes: i) harms and drug-related deaths, ii) treatment and recovery, iii) legal changes and iv) drugs as medicines. This document can serve as a reference for researchers to support the development of research proposals and grant applications aligned with current research priorities.

#### Harms and drug-related deaths

- Diversity of drug using groups Broader approaches of drug use and populations beyond single substances and demographic groups. Focus on the diverse subgroups at risk, such as aging high-risk heroin users, the emerging younger population of people who use drugs, women, and people experiencing homelessness. A holistic research framework to fulfil the National Mission's embasis on improving quality of life.
- Additional vulnerabilities A research framework that considers the lifecycle frailty, homelessness, and the potential brain implications following a near-fatal overdose.
- Surveillance and monitoring Dynamic surveillance that recognises the changing landscape of drug use including new drugs (e.g., benzodiazepines and nitazines) in the supply and patterns of use. Data Collection methods should include qualitative research involving lived and living experiences to understand the challenges faced within drug use and transmission.
- Integrating technology The integration of technology such as AI and data-driven approaches. Technology as research priority emerged as it could hold potential in shaping

https://drns.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Priorities-for-Scottish-Drugs-Research-Event-Report.pdf



# Clare Morrison

Director of Engagement & Change Healthcare Improvement Scotland



# About Healthcare Improvement Scotland



**Our vision:** A health and care system where:

- people can access safe,
   effective, person-centred care
   when needed
- services are informed by the voices of people and communities and based on evidence about what works
- those delivering care are empowered to continuously innovate and improve

## Our functions and approach



# About Healthcare Improvement Scotland



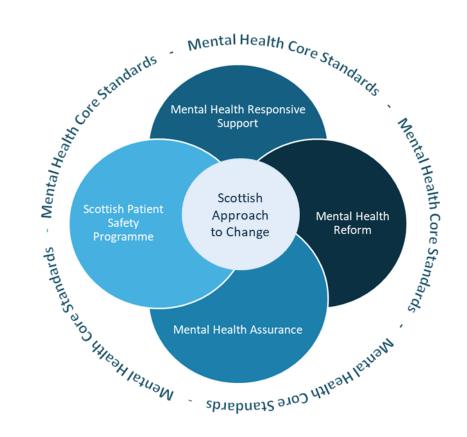
Playing a key role in Health and Social Care renewal.

Supporting the principles of:

- Prevention
- People
- Community
- Population
- Digital



## Our mental health and substance use work



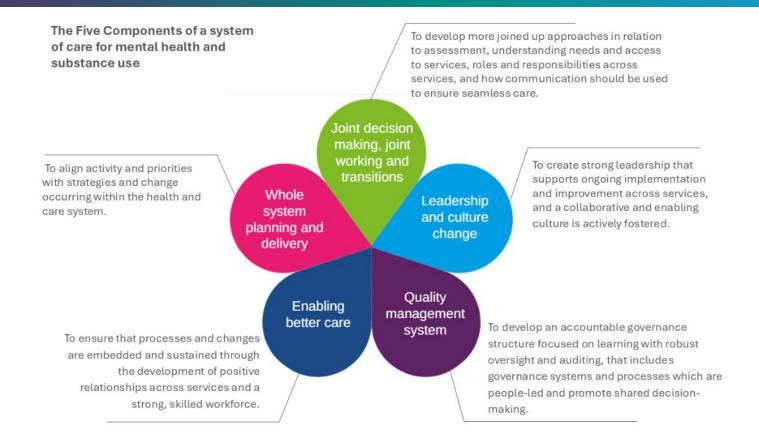


Improvement
Support for MAT
Standards
Implementation

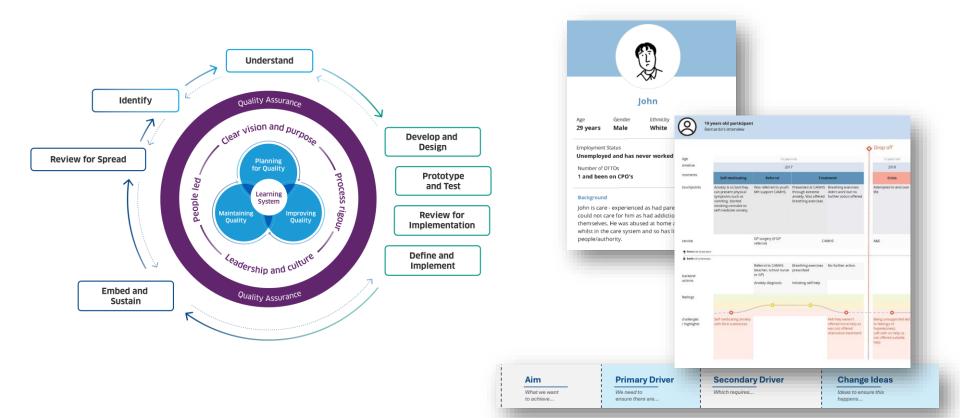


Pathways to Recovery:
Redesigning
Residential
Rehabilitation
Pathways

## Our mental health and substance use work



# Mental Health and Substance Use Toolkit







# Tracey McFall CEO Scottish Recovery Consortium





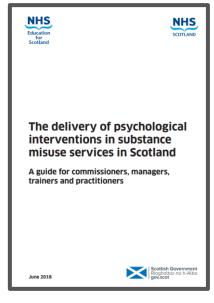


# Mental Health and Substance Use – Putting Evidence into Practice

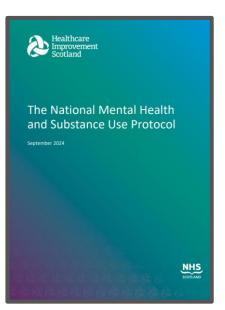


## What do we have?





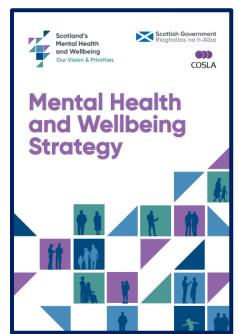


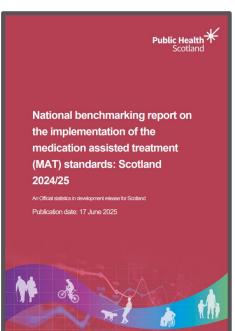


## What do we know?









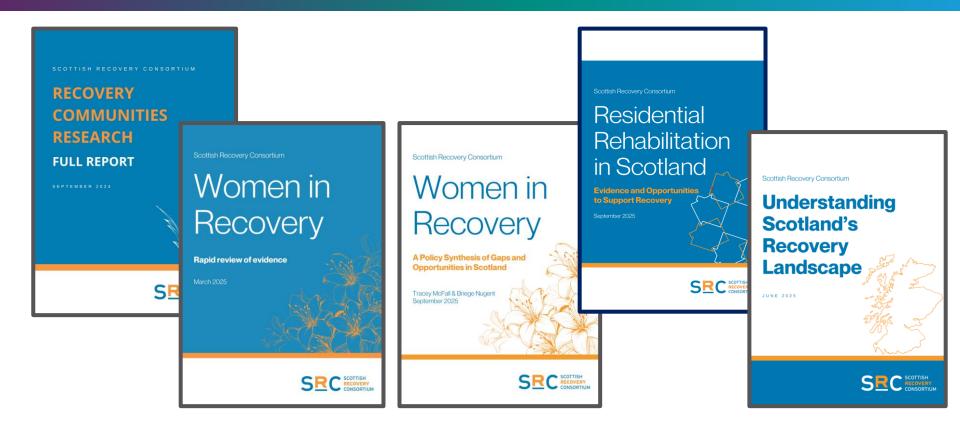




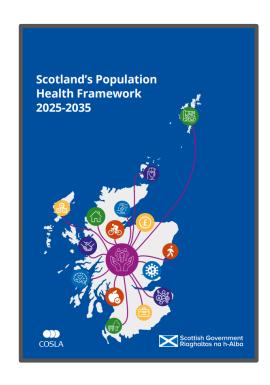
# What comes first, the 'chicken or the egg'?



## What do we know?



# Opportunities





Scotland's Public Service Reform Strategy – Delivering for Scotland

June 2025



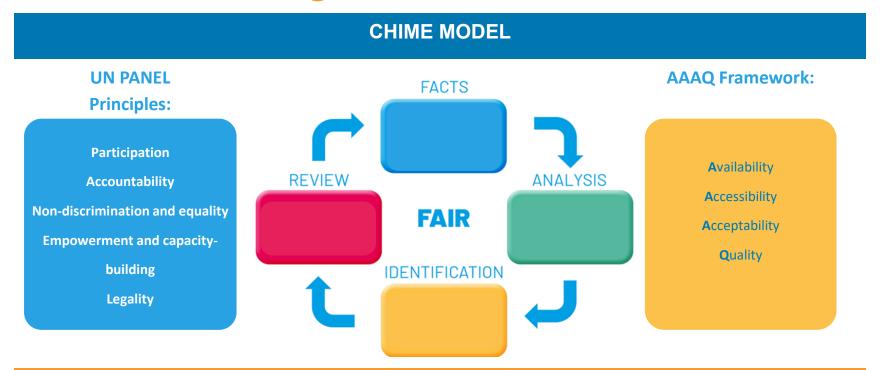
# Key themes.....

| Strategic Theme                    | Population Health Framework (PHF)  | Public Service Reform Strategy (PSR)   | Health & Social Care Service Renewal Framework (SRF)  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Prevention                         | Prevention Focused System; Primary<br>Prevention; Tackling root causes of ill health   | Pillar 1: Prevention; Preventative budgeting;<br>Demand mitigation                           | Prevention Principle; Secondary & Tertiary<br>Prevention; Early detection & chronic condition<br>management |
| Equity & Inclusion                 | Focus on reducing health inequalities; Right to health; Targeting deprived communities | Empowering communities; Tackling child poverty; Inclusive service design                     | People Principle; Value-Based Care; GIRFE model;<br>Equity in access and outcomes                           |
| Community & Place-Based Approaches | Places and Communities; Community Wealth<br>Building; Social Prescribing               | Joined-up services; Local integration; Whole Family Support; Community Planning Partnerships | Community Principle; More care in communities;<br>Hospital at Home; Local hubs and MDTs                     |
| Digital Transformation             | Digital Population Health; Healthy Digital Use;<br>Data for prevention                 | Digital Public Services; AI & automation;<br>Shared services                                 | Digital Principle; Digital Front Door; Integrated records; Al-enabled care                                  |
| Integration & Collaboration        | Whole system approach; Marmot Places;<br>Health in All Policies                        | Pillar 2: Joined-up Services; Cross-sector collaboration; Simplification                     | Coordinated Planning & Delivery; Integrated pathways; NHS Delivery body                                     |
| Workforce & Leadership             | Supporting workforce for prevention;<br>Community sector capacity                      | Leadership & cultural change; Empowering staff; Workforce reform                             | Workforce impact; Multi-disciplinary teams;<br>Training for new models of care                              |
| Efficiency & Sustainability        | Long-term reform; Fiscal sustainability;<br>Upstream investment                        | Pillar 3: Efficient Services; Value for money;<br>Avoided public spending                    | Rebalancing resources; Outcomes & impact;<br>Hospital redesign; Population planning                         |
| Person-Centred Care                | Enabling Healthy Living; Life course approach; Participation                           | People-centred services; Holistic support;<br>GIRFE toolkit                                  | People Principle; Shared decision-making; Digital empowerment; Advocacy                                     |
| Data & Evidence-Informed Planning  | Population Health Dashboard; Evaluation & learning                                     | Data sharing; Performance metrics; Theory of Change  | Population Principle; Strategic needs assessment;<br>Outcomes framework; Research & innovation              |

# Human Rights



# **Human Rights-Based Frameworks**



**Charter of Rights** 



# Solutions

| Humns Rights Based                                    | PANEL / AAAQ   |
|---|--|
| Foundation  | CoR  |
|   | CHIME  |
| Trauma Informed and                                   | Farly Intervention and Prevention  |
| Person-led Care                                       | Integrated Support   |
|   | Flexible Pathways  |
| Service Integration and Co-<br>ordination (Hard Edges | Break down silos between Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Treatment  |
| 2019)   | Social Care / Housing /Peer-led recovery support   |
| Workforce Development                                 | Trauma Informed Practice   |
|   | Stigma   |
|   | Dual Diagnosis / LPASS Framework   |
| Lived Experience and Co-                              | Involve people with lived experience, in delivery, design and evaluation   |
|   |  |
| production  | Use peer support models to build trust and engagement  |
| production  | Use peer support models to build trust and engagement  Ensure engagement is authentic and meaningul - not tokenistic |
| Data, Evidence and                                    |  |
|   | Ensure engagement is authentic and meaningul - not tokenistic  |
| Data, Evidence and                                    | Ensure engagement is authentic and meaningul - not tokenistic  Use experience to inform policy and practice          |





# Thanks







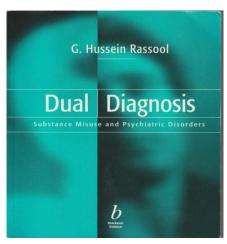
# From Dual Diagnosis to CoSUM: Are we finally making progress on service integration?

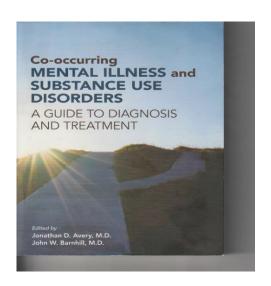
Dr Iain Smith, Consultant Psychiatrist, NHS Forth Valley, co-author of Rapid Review and member of CoSUM working group



## déjà vu-Dual Diagnosis becomes CODs/CoSUM

- Mind The Gaps(2003)
- Closing The Gaps(2007)





ISAM:Textbook of Addiction Treatment, Vol II-Part VIII,2021

# Why The Resurgence of Concern Over Co-Occurring SUD and MI At This Time-1

- "Trust and Respect –Final Report of the Independent Inquiry into Mental Health Services in Tayside ,February 2020 ,David Strang CBE
- Cross-refers to Dundee Drug Commission Report:-
- "Recommendation 13: Full integration of substance use and mental health services and support. This is recommended UK and international best practice – and it needs to happen in Dundee. Trauma, violence, neglect and social inequalities lie at the root of both mental health problems and substance use problems and most people with substance use problems also have mental health problems."

# Why The Resurgence of Concern Over Co-Occurring SUD and MI At This Time-2

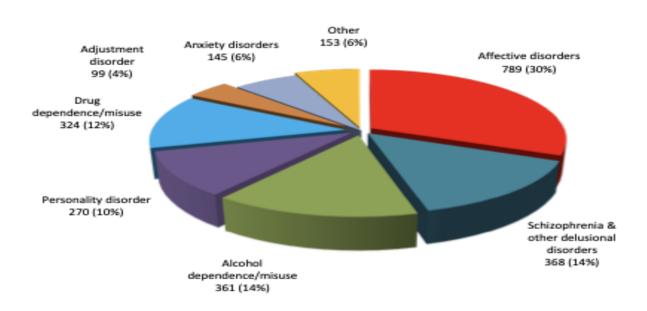
- HIS Pathfinder projects in five HB areas:-
- Mental Health and Substance Use Programme
- "We work with partners within NHS Tayside, NHS Grampian, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Lothian and NHS Lanarkshire to redesign care pathways to improve quality of care and health outcomes for people with mental health and substance use support needs".

# Why The Resurgence of Concern Over Co-Occurring SUD and MI At This Time-3

- Continuing high levels of MI and SUD morbidity, comorbidity and mortality in Scotland-more than in other home nations and in other European nations. NCISSMI data. SAER findings.
- Drug Deaths
- Alcohol Deaths
- Drug Death Taskforce-concluded with a SG response in January, 23
- MAT Standards/MIST
- "No wrong door"
- "Everybody's business"
- MWC Report-Ending the Exclusion
- National Collaborative : National Mission
- Rapid Review requested by Drugs Minister and now completed.

# NCISSMI –Suicides in the MI in Scotland and Alcohol and Drug Comorbidity-1

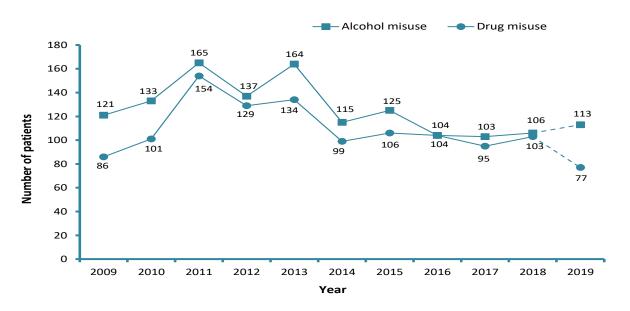
Figure 5: Patient suicide in Scotland: primary mental health diagnoses



<sup>\*&</sup>quot;other" diagnoses include: eating disorders, learning disability, conduct disorder, autism, somatisation disorder, ADHD, organic disorder, drug induced psychosis, dementia and other specified.

# NCISSMI –Suicides in the MI in Scotland with Alcohol and Drug Comorbidity-2

Figure 6: Patient suicide in Scotland: number with a history of alcohol or drug misuse



### **Safer services:**

A toolkit for specialist mental health services and primary care -1

#### Reducing alcohol and drug misuse

Safer care in mental health services

### Reducing alcohol and drug misuse

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We recommend there are local drug and alcohol services available that work jointly with mental health services for patients with mental illness and alcohol and drug misuse.

Other clinical measures that could reduce suicide risk in this group are alcohol and drug misuse assessment skills in frontline staff and specialist alcohol and drug misuse clinicians within mental health services.

#### Our evidence

Across all UK countries, alcohol and drug misuse is common among patients who die by suicide (47% and 37% of all patient suicides UK-wide, respectively, higher in Scotland and Northern Ireland). However, only a minority of patients who died by suicide between 2008 and 2018 were in contact with specialist alcohol and drug misuse services.

In England, there was a <u>25% fall in rates of suicide by patients</u> in those NHS Trusts which had put in place a policy on the management of patients with co-morbid alcohol and drug misuse.

#### Guidance



See the NICE guidelines on coexisting severe mental illness and substance misuse.

Embedding suicide prevention in drug and alcohol policy and services is an action in the <u>strategy for preventing suicide and self-harm in Northern</u> Ireland.

## **Safer services:**

A toolkit for specialist mental health services and primary care -2

Reducing alcohol and drug misuse

Safer care in mental health services



## Specialised services for patients with mental illness and coexisting alcohol and drug misuse

|  | Resp | onse | Date next  | Comments |
|--|------|------|------------|----------|
|  | Yes  | No   | review due | Comments |
| Specialist alcohol and drug services are available, with a protocol for the joint working  |      |      |            |          |
|  |      |      |            |          |
| with mental health services (including shared care pathways, referral and staff            |      |      |            |          |
| training).   |      |      |            |          |
|  |      |      |            |          |
| There is a specific management protocol or written policy on the agreed management         |      |      |            |          |
| of patients with coexisting alcohol and drug misuse.                                       |      |      |            |          |
|  |      |      |            |          |
| Protocols for managing self-harm patients who are under mental health care should          |      |      |            |          |
| highlight the short term risk of suicide, especially where there is coexisting alcohol and |      |      |            |          |
| drug misuse.   |      |      |            |          |
|  |      |      |            |          |
|  |      |      |            |          |
| There is specific training in place for staff on alcohol and drug misuse assessment.       |      |      |            |          |
|  |      |      |            |          |
|  |      |      |            |          |
|  |      |      |            |          |
| There are specialist alcohol and drug misuse clinicians within mental health services.     |      |      |            |          |
|  |      |      |            |          |

## **Rapid Review complements other work**

Rapid Review

HIS Pathfinder

Mental Welfare Commission National Standards (e.g. MAT)

Drug Deaths Task Force Final Report

# The Way Ahead: Recommendations to the Scottish Government from the Rapid Review of Co-Occurring Substance Use and Mental Health Conditions in Scotland

Published online 30/11/22

Two other components to review also published that day:-

Literature review

Survey of substance use service staff in Scotland.

In writing recommendations we consulted as widely as possible given time constraints including with MWC over their report-Ending the Exclusion-and HIS and MIST etc. Also we met with David Strang.

# Rapid Review: The Way Ahead – Executive Summary-1

### Recommendation One

- The Scottish Government should ensure that each area has an agreed protocol in relation to the operational interfaces between mental health services and substance use services. Further, this protocol should be owned and monitored by a responsible individual at a senior management level, with clear oversight of both service areas.
- Recommendation Two
- The Scottish Government should work with local boards and Integrated Joint Boards to improve data collection on care for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. This should include key indicators, such as the number of rejected referrals for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions by either mental health services or substance use services.
- Recommendation Three
- The Scottish Government should ensure that Health Boards, Health and Social Care Partnerships, Alcohol and Drug Partnerships and all practitioners are considering their work, in relation to co-occurring disorders, within the framework of the four quadrants model. This was shown in Closing the Gaps (2007) and is replicated in our literature review (Page 8). This should be part of the locally produced protocol.
- Recommendation Four
- The Scottish Government should ensure an annual population needs assessment in relation to substance use treatment capacity which will in turn help with the treatment of mental health problems. We know that certain forms of substance use treatment improve the mental health of those with alcohol and other drug use disorders. The Scottish Government should ensure these needs assessments are happening and informing service provision at a local level.

| Psychiatric<br>disorder:<br>LOW<br>severity        | Substance use<br>disorder:<br>LOW<br>severity  | Psychiatric<br>disorder:<br>HIGH<br>severity                                 | Substance use<br>disorder:<br>LOW<br>severity  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| LOC: client served by primary care clinic          |  | LOC: client served by mental health center                                   |  |  |
| III<br>Psychiatric<br>disorder:<br>LOW<br>saverity | Substance use<br>disorder:<br>HIGH<br>severity | Psychiatric<br>disorder:<br>HIGH<br>severity                                 | Substance use<br>disorder:<br>HIGH<br>severity |  |
| LOC: client served by addiction treatment program  |  | LOC: client served by mental health<br>center with integrated COD<br>program |  |  |

## FIGURE 2-1. Four-quadrant Model of Care for Co-occurring Disorders.

COD=co-occurring disorder; LOC=locus of care.

Source. National Advisory Council, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: Improving Services for Individuals at Risk of, or With Co-occurring Substance-Related and Mental Health Disorders. Rockville, MD, SAMHSA, 1997.

# Rapid Review: The Way Ahead – Executive Summary-2

- Recommendation Five
- The Scottish Government should commission a specific rapid review for alcohol treatment services given its health implications for Scotland and evidence that treatment in Scotland has been diminishing despite high levels of alcohol use disorders.
- Recommendation Six
- The Scottish Government should ensure all mental health and substance use staff are trained on how best to assess and manage co-occurring mental health conditions and substance use disorders in a trauma-informed approach. This training should also be open to other professional groups.
- Recommendation Seven
- The Scottish Government should ensure that further research is carried out to explore several troubling findings which we
  could not address in this rapid review. These include the finding by Public Health Scotland of a significant increase in anxiety
  and depressive episodes prior to a drug-related death between 2008 and 2018, and the increase in Drug-Related Admissions
  to General Hospitals. On a larger scale, a replication of the Co-Morbidity of Substance Misuse and Mental Illness
  Collaborative (COSMIC) Study in a Scottish city would be particularly relevant.

# Does Psychiatric Disorder Contribute to DRD Risk-Some interesting data

Table 16a: Percentage of Drug-Related Deaths by psychiatric condition experienced in the six months prior to death (2009-2018)

Back to Index page

| Psychiatric Condition           | % of deaths |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|                                 | 2009        | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Depression                      | 23.1        | 22.7 | 30.8 | 39.9 | 45.8 | 44.2 | 47.7 | 47.3 | 45.1 | 45.6 |
| Anxiety                         | 15.3        | 15.1 | 18.7 | 27.1 | 26.4 | 29.6 | 29.5 | 31.2 | 29.0 | 28.6 |
| Personality Disorder            | 5.6         | 4.4  | 5.0  | 6.3  | 7.2  | 5.7  | 7.9  | 6.4  | 7.5  | 6.3  |
| Schizophrenia                   | 4.9         | 2.7  | 5.9  | 4.0  | 7.4  | 5.2  | 4.8  | 5.6  | 5.8  | 5.7  |
| Other psychiatric conditions    | 3.9         | 4.4  | 2.5  | 2.9  | 3.3  | 5.4  | 5.3  | 3.1  | 4.9  | 5.0  |
| Post Traumatic Stress Disorder  | 1.2         | 1.9  | 2.5  | 2.5  | 2.7  | 3.1  | 4.2  | 3.7  | 3.3  | 3.2  |
| Bipolar Disorder                | 2.3         | 1.1  | 2.1  | 2.3  | 1.6  | 24   | 2.5  | 2.1  | 3.0  | 2.1  |
| Psychotic Episode               | 1.2         | 1.1  | 1.1  | 2.3  | 2.3  | 2.9  | 2.5  | 2.4  | 2.1  | 1.6  |
| ADHD/ADD                        | 0.2         | 0.0  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.9  | 1.1  | 0.7  | 0.7  | 1.2  |
| Obsessive Compulsive Disorder   | 0.2         | 0.5  | 0.2  | 0.0  | 0.6  | 0.5  | 0.2  | 0.5  | 1.1  | 0.3  |
| Any psychiatric condition       | 40.0        | 40.3 | 47.0 | 55.9 | 60.0 | 60.3 | 61.7 | 64.8 | 63.1 | 63.0 |
| No known psychiatric conditions | 60.0        | 59.7 | 53.0 | 44.1 | 40.0 | 39.7 | 38.3 | 35.2 | 36.9 | 37.0 |

Source: NDRDD

# Co-Occurring Substance Use and Mental Health Concerns in Scotland: A Survey of Scottish Drugs and Alcohol Services

# **Key Findings**

- Of the 349 individuals approached as part of the survey of people working within substance use services in Scotland, responses were received from 93 (27%) individuals from across 79 different services. Two respondents from criminal justice services have been excluded from the overall analysis as these services were outside the scope of the survey.
- The largest number of responses came from respondents working within the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) areas of Aberdeen City (12%) and Glasgow City (12%). No responses were received from Falkirk, Orkney and Shetland ADP areas.
- Relating to the National Health Service (NHS) Health Board areas, the largest number of respondents worked within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (23%). NHS Orkney and NHS Shetland were the only health boards that did not have any responses.
- The majority of respondents (98%) described their services as community based, with 13% of individuals responding from residential services. The largest occupational group to respond (48%) were those in leadership positions within the service (e.g. Chief Executive Officers, managers, team leaders), followed by clinical staff (38%).

# THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND THE VARIOUS PSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMS AND SYNDROMES IS COMPLEX

- The symptoms of the mental disorder e.g. depression may be a direct consequence of the substance misuse and may clear or improve with abstinence
- The mental disorder may pre-date the substance misuse and may have directly contributed to the development of the substance misuse (e.g. secondary alcohol misuse/dependence).
- The two disorders may exist coincidentally in the same individual e.g. schizophrenia and alcohol dependence

Where there is such comorbidity it makes treatment more difficult and outcomes tend to be poorer

# MWC Good Practice Guide (2013)

Sets out to consider 3 main questions:

- 1. Should mental health legislation be used at all for people who make a quick recovery?
- 2. How long should compulsory treatment continue?
- 3. Should it be used long term to try to prevent psychosis arising from drug use?



# MWC Good Practice Guide - Intro

Very little practical guidance to find in literature base, prompting MWC to approach stakeholders and write guide



MHA – 'Use of, or dependence on, alcohol or drugs does not in itself constitute mental disorder. Mental illness that results from drug or alcohol use, or accompanies it, is a mental disorder under the 2003 Act'

NICE guidance on 'Psychosis with Substance Misuse: Assessment and Management' (CG120, 2011, reviewed already in 2016) sums up diagnostic dilemma as:

- . Substance misuse either precipitates the onset of, or is a direct cause of psychosis
- . Substance misuse is a common consequence of a Psychotic Disorder
- . There is a common cause or vulnerability to both substance misuse or psychosis



# MWC Good Practice Guide - Conclusions

- 1. If individuals whose psychosis is provoked by drug use meet the grounds for compulsory treatment, we consider that the 2003 Act should be used to protect them and/or others from harm.
- 2. During and beyond a period of compulsory treatment, individuals should be offered help to address mental health and substance misuse.

3. Compulsory measures must be revoked when the grounds are no longer met, but individuals should still be offered continued help to address their problems.

# COSMIC study conclusions

- Persons with substance misuse disorders are more likely to have a comorbid psychiatric diagnosis than the general population and those with a psychiatric diagnosis are more likely to have a substance misuse diagnosis.
- Assessment and management are more difficult in the presence of such comorbidity which is often unrecognised.

 Persons with substance use disorders may have poor access to mental health treatment and those with mental health problems poor access to substance use services

# **COSMIC Study-Management**

- Assessment: MH & SM services fail to identify co-morbidity in a high proportion of patients
- Few patients meet criteria for joint management. Possibly 'low potential' for cross-referral?
- Drug & Alcohol services provide some MH interventions, >50% get no specialist care
- CMHTs provide interventions for very few patients with drug / alcohol problems (<20%)</li>

# CONCLUSIONS

- Alcohol and drugs of abuse are psychologically and physically hazardous
- There are complex relationships with pre-existing psychiatric disorders
- Psychiatric and physical consequences are associated with intoxication, chronic heavy use, and withdrawal
- Specific behavioral toxicology with different drug categories.
- In the absence of Severe and Enduring Mental Illness where possible substance misuse services should provide the mental health care. Substance misuse treatment in itself has positive mental health effects.
- We need SU services that treat MI to a particular threshold
- We need MI services that treat SU to a particular threshold
- We need joint working for those over these thresholds and better integration— THERE ARE GREEN SHOOTS AND WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO NURTURE THIS PROGRESS AS PROBLEM REMAINS TO A SIGNIFICANT LEVEL.





# Mental Health and Substance Use: The Need for Equity

**Professor John Crichton** 

Psychiatrist Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland

Mental Health and Substance Use: Putting Evidence into Practice



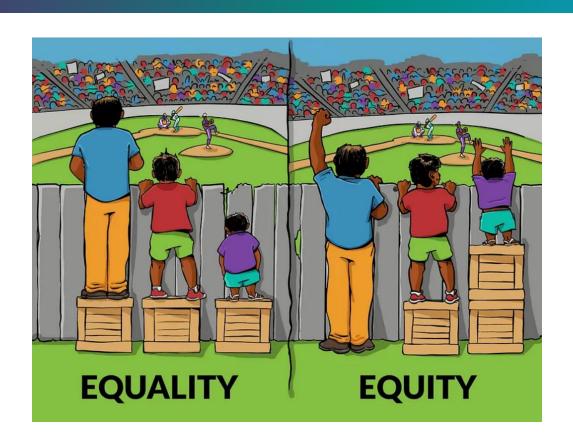
# Why is Equity important

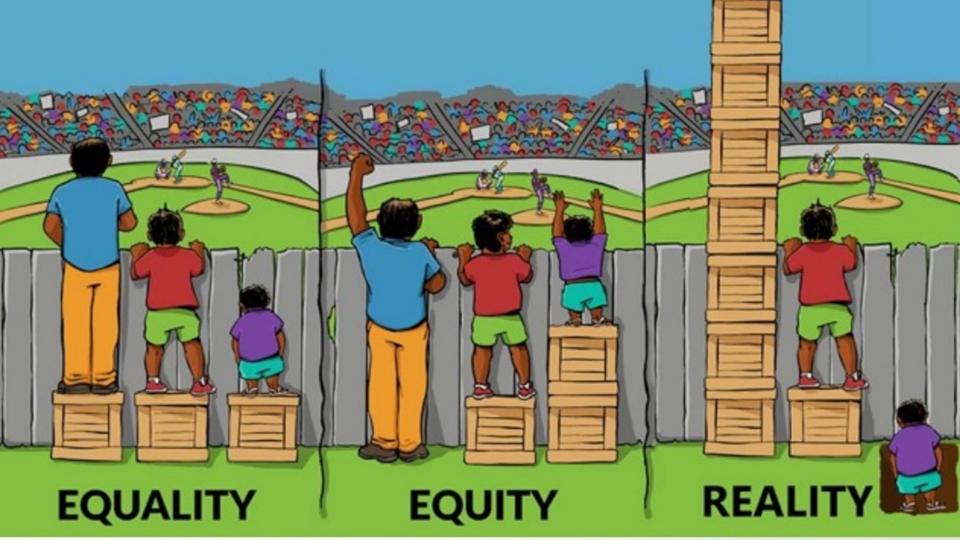
# Lessons from Veterans First Point

# **Armed Forces Covenant 2011**

"Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services."

"Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved."





# **Ending the Exclusion**

Care, treatment and support for people with mental ill health and problem substance use in Scotland (MWC 2022)

# **Purpose**

Themed visit exploring how well services meet the needs of people living with both mental illness and problem drug/alcohol use.

# **Findings**

- Systemic inequity: people still "bounced" between mental-health and addiction services.
- National policies (e.g. *No Wrong Door*) **not implemented in practice**.
- 84% of GPs, 93% of third-sector staff rated current provision as inadequate.
- Stigma and fragmented accountability remain major barriers.

### Recommendations

- Each HSCP to have a written model for integrated, trauma-informed care.
- Every person to have a **care coordinator** and **documented care plan**.
- Protocols for disengagement and joint emergency response.
- NES to address stigma and embed trauma-informed practice in training.
- **Scottish Government** to monitor delivery and ensure consistency.

### Core message

Current service provision is not good enough... Strategies and standards are not being translated into practice. We must listen, and we must deliver.

- MWC, 2022

# The V1P model

- Peer Support Workers
- Same day engagement
- Continuity of Key Worker
- Built in clinical escalation and supportive supervision

# Not Just the right thing to do,

# - it's the smart thing to do

"Living Longer" dataset links > 20 million records across health services. Dr Grant Sara . New South Wales population  $\approx$  8.3 million (2025).

# **Findings**

- People using public mental-health services had 5× higher rates of avoidable hospital admissions for physical illnesses.
- 6,000 excess bed-days per year due to vaccine-preventable conditions
- Women in contact with mental-health services less likely to receive breast or cervical cancer screening.

# **Key Insights**

- Mental illness is a public-health risk factor in its own right.
- Calls for inclusion of mental-health service users as a priority group in national immunisation and screening programmes.

# Towards Equity in Mental Health and Substance Use

# **Common Themes**

- People with co-occurring mental illness and substance use face systemic disadvantage across health systems.
- Inequity is measurable in mortality, preventable illness, and service exclusion.
- Fragmented services and stigma persist despite progressive policy frameworks.

# **What Equity Requires**

- Joined-up accountability between mental health, addiction, and physical-health care.
- Appropriate access for those at greatest risk parity in outcomes, not just provision.
- Trauma-informed and rights-based practice as standard, not aspiration.
- Clinician leadership in data and design: using evidence to close, not describe, the gap.

"Equity is not charity — it is justice."

Thank you

Jon Crichton





Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Research:
Plan & vision

















Prof Thomas Phillips
Professor of Nursing in Addiction
Director of CAMHR

CI ProACTIVE Study – NIHR HS&DR CoACH Study – NIHR MHIN York & Humber RRDN Specialty Lead for Mental Health



Prof Judith Cohen
Director of Hull Health Trials Unit
Co-Director of CAMHR

Lead and Co-Investigator on multiple studies Module lead for MSc Pharmacology Chair for the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) Yorkshire and North East

# **Established Partners**

# King's College London – Addiction & Technology

### **Prof Colin Drummond & Prof Paolo Deluca**

- World leading National Addiction Centre
- Existing academic collaboration spanning over 20 years
- South London ARC and Mental Health Implementation Network
- Technology: Sensors, Apps, Virtual Reality
- Clinical Mentorship Professor of Addiction

# University of York - Mental Health & Health Economics

# **Prof Lina Gega & Prof Cynthia Iglesias**

- Institute of Mental Health Research
- International Expertise in Health Economics
- Expertise in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- Yorkshire & Humber ARC
- Hull York Medical School





# **University of Hull**

### Alison Sharpe - Public Co-Applicant

Previous experience as business executive and PPI

## Dr Jo Bell – Reader (Social Science)

PhD Group (Cluster Lead) for Prevention of Suicide & Training Lead

### Dr Will Jones - Lecturer & Director of Research

Data Modelling and Artificial Intelligence

# **Prof Igor Schindler - Professor of Psychology**

- Previously clinical neuropsychologist
- Head of School

# **Prof Lesley Smith - Professor of Women's Public Health**

Research portfolio – alcohol and adolescents

# **TBA - Professor of Addiction Psychiatry (HYMS & Humber Teaching NHS Trust)**

Research leadership & development of CAMHR portfolio

# Collaborators

### **University of Kent - Prof Simon Coulton**

- Extensive research career with expertise in research design, methods and statistics.
- SC will be methodological lead for CAMHR, providing statistical oversight
- Mentorship to Clinical Academics in developing grant applications



### **Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust - Dr Hannah Armitt & Dr Laura Voss**

- HA is Senior Clinical Psychologist with clinical experience working within child and adolescent mental health services and currently leads a NIHR study.
- LV is Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist based on HRI campus
- Humber provides range of community (PHC), mental health and addiction services



# **Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust - Dr Lynsey Corless**

- Consultant Hepatologist, NIHR CRN National Specialty Lead for Hepatology and Lead for Alcohol Care Team
- HUTH R&D Team support multiple trials and studies



## **Independent Primary Care Researcher - Dr Nat Wright**

- NIHR Primary Care Specialty Lead for Yorkshire and Humber RDN.
- Research collaborations involving substance use and mental health problems in criminal justice settings



# Rationale

### Target Area

- High levels of need, inequalities and disadvantage
- Limited access and engagement in services
- Poor outcomes and high impact on services
- Significantly under served by clinical applied addiction research

### Significant issues of need

- Prevalence of opiates, cocaine, alcohol & CMD
- Alcohol and specific mortality
- Poor rate of MH treatment in addiction services
- High rates of alcohol admissions (adults & <18s)</li>
- Suicide rate



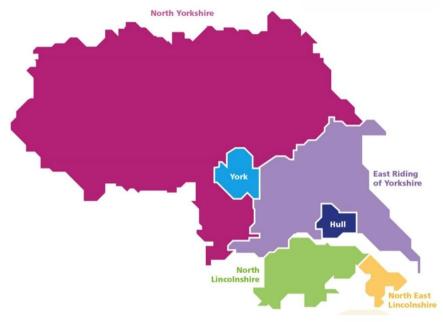






Table 1 Local Addiction and Mental Health Profiles for Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) Area (Source: OHID - Fingertips)

|  | England | East Riding | Hull   | North Lincs | NE Lincs | York   | North Yorks. |
|--|---------|-------------|--------|-------------|----------|--------|--------------|
| Deprivation and Life Expectancy                                    |         |             |        |             |          |        |              |
| Deprivation Score (IMD 2025)                                       | 21.8    | 15.8        | 41.2   | 21.4        | 30.9     | 12.2   | 14.6         |
| Male Life Expectancy at birth (Years) 2018-20                      | 63.1    | 65.3        | 53.8   | 58.7        | 55.2     | 65.3   | 67.3         |
| Female Life Expectancy at birth (Years) 2018-20                    | 63.9    | 67.9        | 57.9   | 56.4        | 57.5     | 64.6   | 66.4         |
| Mortality  |         |             |        |             |          |        |              |
| Suicide Rate (per 100k) 2019-21                                    | 10.4    | 12.8        | 12.7   | 9.4         | 6.9      | 13.4   | 11.3         |
| Deaths from Drug Misuse (per 100k) 2018-20                         | 5.0     | 2.0         | 5.1    | 4.3         | 5.0      | 8.3    | 5.3          |
| Alcohol-specific mortality (per 100k)                              | 10.9    | 6.6         | 14.2   | 13.2        | 16.8     | 8.1    | 9.2          |
| Drug Use & Treatment   |         |             |        |             |          |        |              |
| ~Prevalence of opiate/cocaine (per 1000) 2016/17                   | 8.9     | 5.8         | 18.1   | 12.3        | 14.4     | 5.8    | 5.4          |
| Number in specialist drug treatment 2020/21                        | 199,156 | 637         | 2,137  | 803         | 1,069    | 1,252  | 633          |
| Successful completion drug treatment – opiates (%) 2021            | 5.0     | 6.6         | 2.8    | 5.2         | 3.7      | 3.8    | 7.7          |
| Proportion of (drug) client with MHP receiving MH Tx (%) 2020/21   | 71.0    | 80.4        | 63.7   | 83.0        | 63.9     | 76.7   | 67.0         |
| Alcohol Use & Treatment  |         |             |        |             |          |        |              |
| Percentage of dependent alcohol drinkers (%)                       | 1.39    | 1.05        | 2.38   | 1.30        | 1.56     | 1.39   | 1.10         |
| Number in specialist alcohol treatment 2020/21                     | 76,740  | 356         | 595    | 271         | 312      | 275    | 1,102        |
| Successful completion of alcohol treatment (%) 2021                | 36.6    | 53.2        | 30.0   | 37.4        | 21.6     | 22.0   | 36.9         |
| Proportion of (Alcohol) client with MHP receiving MHTx (%) 2020/21 | 80.4    | 79.7        | 71.7   | 92.9        | 77.7     | 87.9   | 76.0         |
| Alcohol admissions – broad measure (per 100k) 2021/22              | 1734    | 1519        | 1995   | 1797        | 1971     | 1912   | 1661         |
| Young People's Needs   |         |             |        |             |          |        |              |
| ~ Number of 5-17years with mental health disorders 2017/18         | -       | 5,762       | 4,676  | 3,208       | 3,000    | 3,214  | 10,755       |
| New referrals to MH services <18 years (per 100k) 2019/20          | 6,977   | 7,552       | 11,378 | 13,008      | 4,917    | 5,872  | 6,281        |
| Attended contacts CMH service <18 years (per 100k) 2019/20         | 28,395  | 23,295      | 32,438 | 24,866      | 31,608   | 33,352 | 35,338       |
| Children (<18yrs) in need due to abuse/neglect (per 10k) 2018      | 181.4   | 184.4       | 445.1  | 132.6       | 430.0    | 210.8  | 178.0        |
| Alcohol admissions – under 18 (per 100k) 2018-2021                 | 29.3    | 18.5        | 40.7   | 18.7        | 29.0     | 27.3   | 36.9         |
| Mental Health Needs  |         |             |        |             |          |        |              |
| ~ Prevalence of CMD>16yrs: (%) 2017                                | 16.9    | 14.2        | 20.5   | 16.8        | 18.1     | 14.8   | 14.1         |
| Emergency hospital admissions for self-harm (per 100k) 2021/2      | 163.9   | 102.9       | 164.4  | 133.0       | 139.4    | 155.3  | 158.6        |
| Attended contacts CMH service All ages (per 100k) 2019/20          | 30,674  | 24,232      | 50,554 | 36,797      | 43,768   | 39,329 | 36,489       |
| Dementia aged <65 yrs proportion of total dementia (%) 2020        | 3.5     | 2.9         | 3.4    | 4.6         | 7.2      | 3.0    | 2.5          |

KEY:

| Better than National Figure (95%CI) | Similar to National Figure | Worse than National Figure (95%CI)  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Lower than National Figure (95%CI)  | Similar to National Figure | Higher than National Figure (95%CI) |



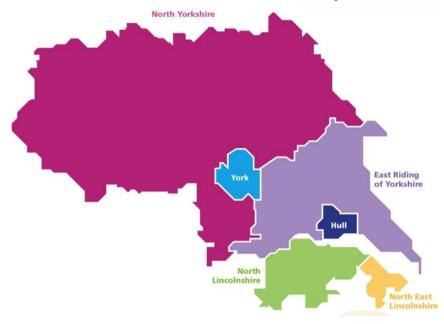


# Partnership priorities

- Stakeholders Events
  - Reduce impact of drugs and alcohol
  - Increase access to effective treatment for:
    - those with co-existing mental health and substance use young people
  - Improve care pathways from emergency departments to other services
  - Emerging needs: identifying alcohol-related cognitive impairment as a priority









Centre for Addiction & Mental Health Research



Increase the proportion of people misusing drugs who access treatment and recovery support, including more **young people**...

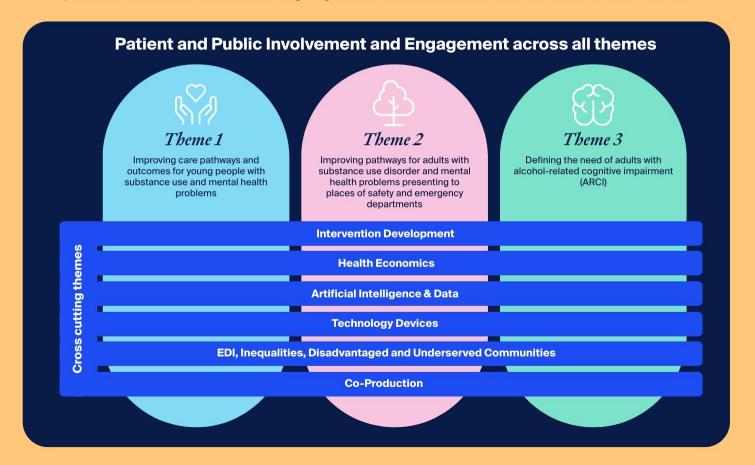
More research should be conducted into which interventions are most effective, particularly for people who may have **cognitive deficits** due to past or current drug use, and for people with co-occurring **mental illness**.

UK Govt (2021) Independent report.
Review of drugs part two: prevention, treatment, and recovery. **Department of Health (Dame Carol Black Report)** 





Our vision is to foster a research Partnership that is inspiring, inclusive, promotes collaboration and transforms the lives of patients and families addressing the gaps in the care system and finding practice-based solutions resulting in greater access to care and treatment that works.



# Cross cutting themes

### **HEALTH ECONOMICS**

### Supported by a Research Fellow (York)

Conduct cost analyses of reported current care pathways from an NHS and personal social services.

Average cost associated with current care pathways for young people with SUD&MHP, and adults with ARCI, will be estimated based on the primary data on health and social services resource use that will be collected alongside the prevalence studies described in themes 1 and 3.

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

# Supported by as Research Fellow (DAIM, UoHull)

Al involvement in systematic review, medical diagnostics in collected data, development of predictive models, integration of Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Large Language Models (LLMs), analysis of routine healthcare data

### **TECHNOLOGY**

# Supported by a Research Fellow (King's)

Interventions development supported by devices (transdermal alcoholic sensors, wearables for biomarkers), apps and online interventions





# What we will achieve

### **ADDRESS UNMET NEEDS**

Improved care pathways and greater access to treatment within target services

Strengthening evidence-based commissioning of services

Supporting the workforce through Communities of Practice

### **RESEARCH CAREERS**

Increasing pre- and doctoral fellowship applications

Support career pathway for ECRs and Clinical Academics hosted by NHS Trusts

Professor of Addiction Psychiatry - HYMS & Humber NHS Trust

Supporting senior scientific award applications

### **SUSTAINABILITY**

Investing in ECRs and developing leaders

Expanding collaborations nationally and internationally

Broaden portfolio to include industry and commercial research





# Patient and Public Involvement and

Engagement



Centre for Addiction &
Mental Health Research

 PPIE team working with Lived Experience & Stakeholder groups across all themes (delivery and evaluation)

Working with existing groups across the target area:

- Ethnic Minority Research Inclusion (EMRI)
- Young People networks

### **PPIE Team**

- Alison Sharpe, Public Co-Applicant with lived experience
- Sarah Capes, PPIE Coordinator, Adults
- Ayisja Moss, PPIE Coordinator, Young People

# Strategy for Public Involvement and Engagement in Addiction and Mental Health Research 2025-2023

- V1.0, April 2025
- Available under 'Resources' on the PPIE page of CAMHR website <a href="https://www.hull.ac.uk/research/centres/centre-for-addiction-and-mental-health-research/patient-public-involvement-and-engagement">https://www.hull.ac.uk/research/centres/centre-for-addiction-and-mental-health-research/patient-public-involvement-and-engagement</a>

Strategy for Public Involvement and Engagement in Addiction and Mental Health Research 2025 – 2030

ersion: 1.0

Date: April 2025

### Our partners:







In collaboration with:







CAMHR Strategy for Public Involvement and Engagement in Addiction and Mental Health Research V1.0 April 2025 | Review date: April 2026

# Stakeholder Engagement

Number of contacts with individual stakeholders across Humber and North Yorkshire

### **PPI Engagment**

Number of contacts with lived experience groups and individuals from the public to discuss PPI involvement. These include:

- Double Impact Scunthorpe
- Renew Hull Aftercare group
- · We Are With You, NE Lincs
- Nothing About Us Without Us, H&NY
- Humber Youth Action Group

### **PPI Sessions**

Number of PPI sessions delivered across Young People and Adult services

### **Events**

Events attended to network, promote engagement and PPI opportunities. These include:

- · Oasis Hub Grimsby CAMHR engagement event
- · Nothing About Us Without Us, H&NY Summer Event
- East Riding Youth Council

### **Partnership Working**

Number of partnership working relationships we have built to promote best practice and peer support. These include regular meetings with:

- MHRG University of Bath PPIE Co-ordinators
- ER Public Health lived experience team
- · PPIE Co-ordinator of Involve, Hull
- · Engagement Co-ordinator for Children's Services, Humber Teaching NHS Trust

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# **CAMHR PPIE Co-ordinators: Young People and Adults**



- Documents created to support PPIE in CAMHR. Including:
- PPIE strategy
- Risk Management and Safeguarding YP and Adult
- Payment Policy
- EDI checklist
- PPI Terms of Reference

# Young Interns

Number of Young Interns in post

- 1 YP on reserve
- 1 YP on interview panel



# PPI Members Added to Network

Number of adults and young people interested in taking part in PPI activities following engagement events



# **Best Practice Monthly** Meetings

Regular meeting we attend for best practice, networking:

- Nothing About Us Without Us, H&NY
- EMRI Monthly Meeting
- IRIS Research Community of Practice
- H&NY CYP Mental Health Steering Group

# **Support to Contributors** of CAMHR

Number of projects we have supporting as part of CAMHR:

- PhD students within CAMHR with PPIE
- PPIE Consultations for the SMASH Project



# Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA)

NIHR Mental Health Research Group University of Hui



Centre for Addiction & Mental Health Research

# Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) in Research Strategy

Version: 1.0 Date: May 2025

### Our partners:







### In collaboration with:







### Contact

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Research (CAMHR) CAMHR@hull.ac.uk

Dr Tyler Mills (Research Fellow, University of Hull) t.i.mills@hull.ac.uk

Professor Cynthia Iglesias (Co-Applicant, Professor of Health Economics, University of York)

Dr Philip Kerrigan (Project manager, University of York) philip, kerrigan@york, ac.uk

Sarah Capes (Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement [PPIE] coordinator for adults) s.capes2@hull.ac.uk

Ayisja Moss (PPIE coordinator for young people) a.moss2@hull.ac.uk

### **EDIA Leads**

- Dr Tyler Mills, Research Fellow Theme 2
- Phillip Kerrigan EDIA and Mentor Project Administrator

# Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) in Research Strategy

- V1.0, May 2025
- Available under 'Resources' on the PPIE page of CAMHR website

https://www.hull.ac.uk/research/centres/centre-for-addiction-and-mental-health-research/patient-public-involvement-and-engagement

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# Research Team

### **Research Fellows**

- Dr Philippa Case, Senior Research Fellow Theme 3
- Dr Rachel Coleman Theme 1
- Dr Tyler Mills Theme 2
- Dr Michele Siciliano (York)
- Dr Eileen Brobbin (KCL)

### **Research Assistants**

- Georgia Bingham Theme 2
- Dimple Lala Theme 3
- Hope James Ekpa AI/DAIM

# Patient & Public Involvement & Engagement

- Sarah Capes, PPIE Coordinator, Adults
- Ayisja Moss, PPIE Coordinator, Young People

# Intern - Young People with Lived Experience (part of PPIE team)

- Mansi Raut
- Mariana Faty Embalo

Phillip Kerrigan (York)

### **Admin Team**

- Amy Foster, Finance & Operations Officer
- Dave Liversedge, Research Admin Lead
- Sara Darwish, Administrative Assistant

### PhD Students - Suicide & Social Justice

- Josmi Puthettu
- Camille Illet
- Koren-Marie Cowap
- Patricia Routh

### PhD Students – Alcohol Group

- Buse Apel
- Nurun Tanya

# **Affiliated Projects**

**PRE - CAMHR** 

# NIHR HS&DR ProACTIVE – National Evaluation of Alcohol Care Teams

 Prof Thomas Phillips & Prof Julia Sinclair (Southampton), KCL, Kent, Sheffield, Newcastle, Keele

# NIHR-MHIN Collaborative Alcohol Care in Hull – Alcohol Assertive Outreach Team (CoACH)

 Prof Thomas Phillips, Dr Philippa Case, Dr Tyler Mills, Laura Hermann (NIHR Doctoral)

# NIHR Digital Intervention for Cocaine Use – Virtual Reality and Cue Exposure Treatment

 Led by Prof Paolo Deluca (KCL) in Partnership with University of Hull

# Higher Education Innovation Funding – Collaborative Alcohol Care in Hull – Alcohol & Cognition (CoACH-AC)

Dr Philippa Case

### **NIHR Mental Health Incubator Internships**

- Dr Philippa Case
  - Elisabeth Clarke ARCI
  - Theodore Piper Gambling

# NIHR-RDN: Northern Addiction Research Alliance (NARA)

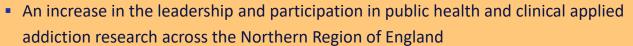
Prof Thomas Phillips

# NIHR-RfPB: Exploring Alcohol Screening in Perinatal Mental Health Services

Prof Lesley Smith & Dr Carline Davenport

# Northern Addiction Research Alliance (NARA)

A clinical-academic network hosted by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Research and funded by NIHR Regional Research Delivery Network to support: +





- Promote research applications led by members of NARA
- Provide opportunities to develop early- and mid-career researchers and support further embedded research opportunities
- Encourage the adoption of evidence-based commissioning and evaluation of addiction service
- Facilitate evidence into practice through clinical engagement

Opportunity to join the NARA/CAMHR Team to support the first collaborative meeting December 2025



# **Affiliated Roles**

### **International PhD Studentship - AI Analyst**

Not yet appointed

## Mental Health Incubator Internship - ARCI

Elisabeth Clarke – Started 22-Sep-2025

# Mental Health Incubator Internship - Gambling

Theodore Piper – Starting 29-Oct-2025

### Research Assistant - Northern Addiction Research Alliance (NARA)

Not yet appointed

# Research Assistant – NIHR Digital Intervention for Cocaine Use

Hannah Darnell

# NIHR-RfPB: Exploring Alcohol Screening in Perinatal Mental Health Services

Dr Caroline Davenport

# Sustainability

# **Early & Mid Career Researchers**

- Training Realist Review Oxford University
- Statistical Training Richard Riley
- NIHR GROW Initiative
- NIHR Writing Retreat
- Development and career plans guided by Vitae and Appraisals
- Mentorship schemes (Subject or methods specific)
- Development awards encouraged actively being pursued
- Budget to support continuing professional development
- Publication policy lead authorship advocated and encouraged
- Opportunities for Teaching and Knowledge Mobilisation across communities
- Pipeline of projects building from Small Grants, Fellowships, RfPB, etc.

### Research Income

- Professor of Addiction Psychiatry; broadens the portfolio and commercial opportunities
- Actively pursuing national and international funding streams building on Themes 1, 2 & 3
- Industry Partners Locally (Inward Investment Teams), RRDN Commercial Lead
- HEI Collaborations Extending to include Implementation Science, Gambling, NARA
- International National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC)
- Additional Focus: Co-Applicant areas of interest and support

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# **Impacts**

# **Knowledge mobilisation**

- Lunch & Learn: Alcohol-related brain damage Invited to present with specialist colleagues at a learning event for NHS England NEY: Mental Health and Prevention Programmes
- Tackling Co-occurring Conditions: Alcohol Related Brain Injury Event, Kent
- Redesigning Alcohol Treatment Care Pathways, North East Lincolnshire
- Implementation of Alcohol Care Teams across HNY Integrated Care Board
- Development & Implementation of Alcohol Assertive Outreach Team (NIHR MHIN)
- Alcohol Treatment Pathway REF2029 Impact Case Study
- Scotland: Drugs Research Network for Scotland (DRNS), Acute Responses to emergency Mental Health and Substance use (ARMHS) network

# **Grant Development**

Existing Awards: (YEF; Coulton), NIHR RfPB (CONIFAS-2; Armitt)

### In Development:

- NIHR HTA Alcohol Contingency Management KCL/Hull
- NIHR Advanced Fellowships Petersen-Williams (Hull/York) Bareham (Newcastle/Hull)
- NIHR HTA Palliative Care and Mental Health Study ICAHR/CAMHR/HYMS
- AAOT Implementation Study Secondary Analysis off Existing Data King's/CAMHR
- NIHR PGfAR Mental Health and Alcohol Care Pathways Lancaster/Newcastle

Theme 3: Defining the needs of adults with alcohol-related cognitive impairment (ARCI)

Dr Philippa Case, Senior Research Fellow









# Ph

Theme 3 – Defining the needs of adults with ARCI

Phase 1 (1-4 yrs): Establishing the needs of those with ARCI

Phase 2 (4-5yrs): Improving care – "What care should be offered?"

Project update: Establishing the needs of those with ARCI

# Mapping exercise & stakeholder engagement

- Collaborated with East Riding of Yorkshire Council and NHS England North East and Yorkshire (NEY):
   No specific services or care pathways for people with alcohol-related cognitive impairment
- Engaging with existing networks: Complex hospital attenders, alcohol strategic partnerships, inequalities and disparities working group, recovery and inclusion group, alcohol treatment service providers

# Pilot study in acute hospital setting – funded by the Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) stream (£23,935)

- Pilot prevalence study
  - Purpose to inform studies 1 and 2 and provide key data to stakeholders:
    - Explore **challenges with recruitment** of participants
    - Administration of cognitive screening tools in a hospital setting
    - Gather exploratory prevalence data, including broad sample of people with AUD







# Project update: Establishing the needs of those with ARCI

Theme 3 – Defining the needs of adults with ARCI

# Pilot study in acute hospital setting – funded by the Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) stream

- Preliminary results:
  - 185 participants scoring ≥3 on FAST were recruited in one hospital (Apr-Aug 2025)
  - 132 had an AUD (≥16 on AUDIT) with 47.7% with severe dependence (30-40 on AUDIT)
  - Of those with AUD:
    - average age 50.4 years
    - 96% white
    - 74% male
    - 84% not married/in a civil partnership
    - 54% living alone
  - 129 of those with AUD completed 2 x cognitive screening tools (MoCA and M-ACE)
  - High levels of mild cognitive impairment (79% using MoCA ≤26 and 64% using M-ACE ≤26), possible ARCI (67% using MoCA ≤23) and possible dementia (M-ACE ≤21, 43%) identified
  - Further analyses to be conducted, exploring:
    - other possible causes of cognitive impairment (e.g. acute illness, medication)
    - co-existing conditions
    - patterns of admissions in previous 5 years
  - Amendment under review with HRA to add follow-up data collection: alcohol consumption and cognition 3 months post-discharge







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# Theme 3 – Defining the needs of adults with ARCI

Project update: Establishing the needs of those with ARCI

### **Validating the measurement of ARCI** to explore the utility of cognitive screening tools

- 1. Review not required
- 2. Consensus with Medical Council on Alcohol (MCA) Gold Standard for defining Alcohol-Related Cognitive Impairment
- 3. Recruit participants with AUD from acute hospital and administer brief cognitive screening tool
- 4. Follow-up post-discharge, 4-8 weeks, 3 months, 6 months: collect data from cognitive screening tools, gold standard (from consensus), alcohol measures, demographic and clinical measures and service use
- 5. Sub-study monitoring alcohol abstinence over 6 weeks using Transdermal Alcohol Sensors (TAS)
- 6. Seeking to identify an accurate prevalence estimate which will inform the development of a diagnostic process post-discharge from hospital







# Theme 3 – Defining the needs of adults with ARCI

Project update: Establishing the needs of those with ARCI

Validating the measurement of ARCI to explore the utility of cognitive screening tools

- 1. Review
- 2. Consensus Gold Standard for defining Alcohol-Related Cognitive Impairment delivered in partnership with the Medical Council on Alcohol
- 3. Recruit participants from specialist services with a history of alcohol dependence and

### Aims:

- Agree terminology: ARCI agreed
- Agree gold standard for the definition and measurement of ARCI
- Agree standards for measurement in clinical practice and research

### Member Specialisms:

Addiction psychiatry Lived experience Hepatology Neuropsychiatry Neuropsychology Old age psychiatry Specialists in ARCI

### **Process:**

First consensus meeting: 31/07/2025 Notes and proposed criteria for discussion shared: 17/09/2025 Second consensus meeting: 02/10/2025



