



Local Community Planning Partnerships Alcohol and Drug Partnership

2024-25



Dundee
City Council

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CHANGING
FOR THE FUTURE

Community
Empowerment

Background

Dundee's Local Community Planning Partnerships are responsible for bringing together communities and public bodies to address inequalities within Dundee's communities. This includes efforts to reduce health disparities, as outlined in Dundee's City Plan.

For 2024/25, Dundee Alcohol and Drugs Project allocated £80,000 to the Local Community Planning Partnerships to support initiatives addressing inequalities related to substance use. The distribution of these funds followed existing resource allocation methods, resulting in lower allocations for West End and The Ferry compared to other areas.

This was the third consecutive year that this devolved funding was provided to Local Community Planning Partnerships, which allowed for the ongoing support of existing projects and the development of new initiatives.

Local Community Planning Partnership	Original Allocation (£)	Actual Spend (£)
Lochee	12,000	11,712
Strathmartine	12,000	12,000
Coldside	12,000	10,914
Maryfield	12,000	11,857
East End	12,000	10,556
North East	12,000	12,655
The Ferry	4000	2250
West End	4000	2100
Total	80,000	74,044

Participatory Budgeting Approach to Alcohol and Drug Partnership Funding

A decision was made that funding should be allocated to support prevention, recovery, and stigma reduction, and that the process for making spending decisions should reflect these aims.

The methodology is based on a three-step Participatory Budgeting process: 1. Ideas Generation, 2. Ideas Filtering, and 3. Decision Making, with input from individuals with lived experience central to each stage. Each Local Community Planning Partnership established an Alcohol and Drug Partnership sub-group composed of various stakeholders, including those with personal or family experience of substance use.

- Ideas Generation – Each sub-group identified local priorities related to substance use and prevention.
- Ideas Filtering – Groups submitted proposals addressing the identified needs, which were checked by the sub-group against those needs.
- Decision Making – The sub-group awarded grants to organisations and community projects.

Fourteen individuals with lived experience of substance use participated in this exercise, contributing to Dundee City Council's Participatory Budgeting report to COSLA. Feedback indicates that individuals with lived experience are engaging with other community representatives and activists who may not have collaborated previously.

There is also evidence that some participants with lived experience are joining additional community activities unrelated to these funds, facilitated by relationship-building through the process.

Impact on Participants

Impact on participants was recorded for the projects listed below and highlighted a number of themes including

- The importance of **whole family approaches** to prevention as described below:

Menzieshill Family Project-

Parents who have struggled with substance use have been able to take part and enjoy mainstream provision that is not focused on recovery. One parent who does not have a relationship with his family stated “I don’t have a family, this group is like my family”

- The importance of services and groups working together to **tackle stigma** around substance use and create welcoming, inclusive opportunities

East End Wellness Project-

“It is great to be included and treated like a normal person. Just because we have addiction problems we are frowned upon, it is noticeable in the community – we don’t get treated the same as other people – you always treat us like human beings and include us in everything and all the same.”

- Creating place based opportunities which can offer **holistic support** for a range of issues are leading to better outcomes for participants

Brooksbank Reflections Project-

“This has helped me on so many levels, I am not as isolated as I was and the benefit check I got helped me get in a better financial position”

- Participants being supported to progress from initially accessing support, to becoming more **active and involved in decision making** in their own communities

Douglas Recovery Cafe-



‘I love coming here, it feels like home’ ‘Coming here saved my life’ ‘When is the next planning meeting?’

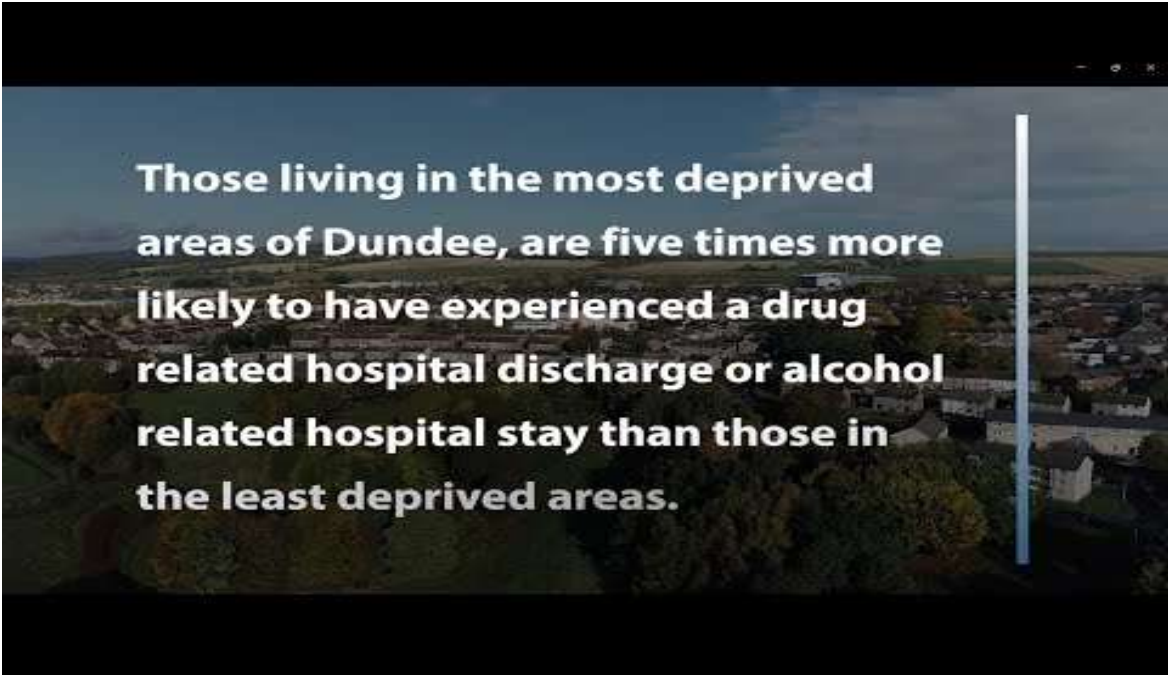
- Examples where the ADP funded projects have had a transformational impact for participants by supporting **capacity building and personal achievement**

Resolve and Evolve Project-

“I am so much more confident, I have friends, I used to just be in the house on my own. The groups and volunteering give me a purpose and have given me friendships. I am out and about all the time, always have something to do. It has definitely helped my mental and physical health. It has also given me experience and helped me to get qualifications that I would have never dreamed of getting before.”

The film below gives a first-hand account of the positive impact this approach is having on individuals and communities.

Dundee Alcohol and Drug Partnership



Those living in the most deprived areas of Dundee, are five times more likely to have experienced a drug related hospital discharge or alcohol related hospital stay than those in the least deprived areas.

East End Projects	Activity
Street Soccer	Physical activity sessions in Douglas: 34 sessions, 68 hours targeting individuals aged 16 to 60+ experiencing hardships such as substance misuse and poor mental health.
Douglas Community Centre Support Cafe	The project served 1062 three-course meals over 36 weekly sessions, reducing stigma towards people impacted by substance use. Participants formed friendships and connections that continued outside the café sessions. The project provided a safe and welcoming space for individuals to engage with a wide range of support services. Participants transitioned from passive recipients to active participants, helping in the kitchen and planning local activities with support from the CLD Community Empowerment Team
Brooksbank Reflections Project	Seven events were held, promoting health and wellbeing among local residents and reducing health inequalities in the East End. The events provided a supportive environment for individuals to engage in activities without the use of drugs or alcohol, helping to combat stigma and social isolation. Collaboration with Dundee and Angus College's Supported Learning group improved students' confidence and integration into the community. Participants appreciated the variety of activities, including silent discos, quizzes, and craft sessions
Hillcrest Futures Douglas Outreach Project	Weekly drop-in recovery café sessions provided crisis intervention, guidance, and signposting to appropriate services. The project supported 22 individuals through 44 one-to-one sessions, resulting in significant positive changes such as increased confidence, reduced drug and alcohol use, and improved understanding of addiction triggers. The project distributed 32 naloxone kits, conducted substance awareness sessions, and provided wound care advice.

Lochee Projects	Activity
School and Family Development Workers	A family engagement day was organised at Brechin Castle Centre for families in Dundee’s Lochee ward affected by alcohol or drugs. • School and Family Development Workers arranged transportation and supported families throughout the day. • The event included outdoor activities and lunch, funded by Dundee Bairsns. • The purpose was to offer families a positive outing and connect them with others in similar situations, benefiting both children and adults. • Total number of participants: 70.
Dundee City Council’s Community Learning and Development (Lochee Family Project)	The Lochee Family Project, is a weekly family group run by Dundee City Council’s Community Learning and Development service. Taking place at the Lochee Community Hub, the group offers planned activities chosen by families themselves, such as crafts, games, and exercise sessions, followed by a shared meal. Parents are increasingly involved in planning and leading group activities, fostering ownership and skill-building. The project provides mutual support, shares information, and connects families to additional resources when needed. Over 30 sessions, a total of 420 participants (about 14 people per session) have benefited from this inclusive, supportive, and engaging environment.
Dundee City Council’s Community Learning and Development (Menzieshill Family Project)	The Lochee Men’s Club, supported by Dundee City Council’s Community Learning and Development service and hosted at the Lochee Community Hub, was established to provide a welcoming space for men in the community. Funded with £500, the group organises activities and outings such as trips to the cinema and games venues, always followed by a shared meal. Participants have been actively involved in planning the programme, and the club has received positive feedback. Since its inception, 31 men have participated, with a regular weekly attendance of six.

Dundee City Council's Community Learning and Development (Lochee Men's Club)	The Lochee Men's Club, supported by Dundee City Council's Community Learning and Development service and hosted at the Lochee Community Hub, was established to provide a welcoming space for men in the community. Funded with £500, the group organises activities and outings such as trips to the cinema and games venues, always followed by a shared meal. Participants have been actively involved in planning the programme, and the club has received positive feedback. Since its inception, 31 men have participated, with a regular weekly attendance of six.
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West End Projects	Activity
Wild Dundee Nature Recovery- The Friary and Carseview	The Wild Dundee Nature Recovery project delivered eight nature-based activities, developed Nature Recovery Packs for Carseview inpatients, and created a 'wee forest' at Carseview Hospital. Additional initiatives included garden design and wildflower planting at The Friary, co-design workshops, and community events. The project engaged medical students and directly benefited 94 people, with participants reporting increased confidence, purpose, and empowerment. The project gained wider interest and fostered an inclusive, supportive environment where participants were encouraged to see themselves as gardeners and artists.

The Ferry Projects	Activity
Giving Back	Giving Back conducted comprehensive community consultations, engaging 50 people in group sessions and completing 110 consultations over a total of 168 activity hours. They provided evening group sessions for parents, expanded jewelry making and arts activities to help fund future sessions, and supported individuals in recovery to build connections and confidence. The organisation also assisted with housing, NHS appointments, advocacy, energy payments, benefits, and assertive outreach. Insights from these consultations will guide future service development and continuation.

North East Projects	Activity
Braeview S2 Health and Wellbeing Day	The Braeview S2 Health and Wellbeing day, held in October 2024 and funded at £4,887.40, provided all S2 pupils with a curriculum-free day focusing on substance misuse prevention and healthy lifestyle choices. The event included interactive sessions such as drugs awareness with CLD and a 'beer goggles' activity, as well as a lunchtime information drop-in for parents and carers. With 100 pupils and 10 parents/carers participating, feedback was highly positive, especially regarding the engaging, youth work-style approach. The intervention's themes have been reinforced throughout the year in PHSE classes, supporting ongoing prevention and learning.
Flip The Switch, Whitfield Primary 7s and Families Education Programme	Funding supported the delivery of four two-hour sessions across three primary schools, focusing on drugs, alcohol, smoking, vaping, sex and relationships, mental health, and online safety. The programme, aimed at Primary 7 pupils before their transition to high school, offered a safe environment for discussion, increased knowledge about substances and their effects, encouraged open communication with trusted adults, challenged stereotypes and discrimination, raised awareness of community impact, addressed peer pressure, and signposted support services.
Whitfield Schools, Holistic Parental Wellbeing Programme	Funding was used to deliver tailored group sessions for parents to support improved stress/anxiety management, emotional regulation and overall mental wellbeing. Parents involved in the programme reported being more able to cope with day to day stressors and had tools going forward to help them in times of crisis, supporting themselves and their families.
Resolve and Evolve Drop in and Monthly Karaoke Dry Family Events	The funding was used to deliver 4 free family fun events with karaoke, facepainting, games, food and refreshments. Resolve and Evolve volunteers worked hard to provide a safe and welcoming environment, providing the opportunity for families and individuals to take part in drug and alcohol free events in the community. Widely advertised yet targeting also those known to be impacted by substance misuse, these family events were very well received. Supported and delivered by local volunteers, the opportunity to socialise in a substance free and family friendly environment, challenged stigma and encouraged all community members to come together.

Strathmartine Projects	Activity
Dundee FC Community Trust	The funding was used to provide football drop-in sessions in the Kirkton area to reduce offending behaviour witnessed across the Ward in previous years. It also aimed to provide healthy alternatives to young people and give peer volunteering opportunities for some of them that may set them on the path to a future goal.
Kirkton Community Centre LMG Cafe Project	Provision of an open and inclusive cafe where everyone was made welcome. It was run by local volunteers who were known in their community. The cafe aimed to support local people that had addiction issues and enabled them to meet others in their community without judgement The project was also given permission to allocate some of the funds to support 3 sessions of a trauma-based course, which included acupuncture, therapy etc to people that were attending the cafe.
Kirkton Community Centre LMG Resilience	The project provided access to a free innovative wellness program aimed at empowering individuals affected by trauma and addiction, and to learn preventive strategies for navigating chaotic lifestyles. The individuals that attended the course participated in a healing process based on their own mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.
DCC West Youth Team Active Choices	The project facilitated the development of targeted youth work provision Strathmartine Ward area through football and sports in general. This sought to directly target those young people who were disengaged from learning in various forms with the possibility of becoming involved with risk taking behaviours (Drugs & alcohol) and anti-social behaviours in the community. The young people who participated in the sessions were aged between 10-15 and a number of them have been or are involved in soft drug misuse in the community while some come from backgrounds whereupon drug use is experienced within family settings.
Sidlaw View PS Parental Engagement Programme	This project offered the opportunity to support parents/families identified as being at risk of substance use through participation in group work and individual family support sessions. Outcomes achieved saw an increase in individual peoples' self-esteem and confidence and improved their engagement in school and the wider community.

Coldside Projects	Activity
Recovery in Coldside and Dundee Recovery Network	This project continued the work of the Recovery Network in Hilltown. The weekly drop in has been well attended since its launch in August 2023 and the funding will be used to provide resources, activity sessions, volunteer training and support for the Anniversary Celebration in August. Dundee Recovery Network was able to continue running their weekly drop-in for a second year. Funds were allocated for activity sessions, our first birthday celebration, day trips to other recovery communities (Stirling Sports Day, Cumbernauld Drop-in), volunteer training and general drop-in running. The DJ booked for our anniversary event fell through, so this money was repurposed towards workshops with Nine Angels and drop-in craft supplies.
Our Lady's Vaping Project	This project built on the success of the pilot project last year. It will repeat the 12-week project with Shaper Caper and NHS to develop a performance around vaping and the dangers it poses to children, particularly for those entering high school. It is hoped to connect with the catchment secondary school for the Primary School Children. NHS staff met with the P7 children to educate them around vaping. Shaper Caper worked with the children each week to create a show/performance with the children to raise awareness of vaping. This involved using green screens to record the children delivering news reports. These were edited and presented to the other P7s within the St John's cluster. The performance took place at St John's on November 25th 2024.
Hilltown Men's Group	The Men's Breakfast Club and Drop in has become a valued and supportive space for over 30 local men, offering social activities, peer support, and access to essential services. The group enjoys regular breakfasts, activities such as pool and table tennis, outings, and learning opportunities, all of which foster strong connections and engagement both within and beyond the group.

Maryfield Applicant	Activity
Safer Scheme Project	The Safer Scheme was a collaborative, community-based project delivered over 50 sessions, engaging 100 at-risk individuals and focusing on safer substance use and harm reduction. Run in partnership with various health and community organisations, the scheme provided education, testing for blood-borne viruses, and signposting to support services. Evaluation showed it successfully reached a hidden population, fostered a non-judgemental environment, and improved both individual and community health outcomes. Key lessons included the value of regular testing and financial incentives for engagement, but ongoing funding is needed to sustain and expand its impact.
Support Project - Boomerang	The Support Project, a partnership between With You and Boomerang Community Centre, provided trauma-informed, stigma-free support for individuals affected by substance use. Over its duration, the project delivered up to 1,200 hours of activities across 150 sessions, directly benefiting 343 people and involving volunteers in both delivery and engagement. Key elements included confidential counselling, food and hygiene vouchers, and signposting to additional community services. The initiative tracked its impact through food voucher and room usage data, demonstrating effective, compassionate care that reduced stigma and fostered community integration. Volunteering opportunities helped lessen social isolation, and open conversations encouraged recovery and resilience
LGBTQ+ Social Café	The LGBTQ+ Social Café in Maryfield was a community initiative running from May 2024 to March 2025, aiming to foster mental health, social inclusion, and equality for LGBTQ+ adults. Meeting every other Saturday in an alcohol-free setting, the café provided refreshments and a safe space for socialising, peer support, and access to mental health services. Supported by partnerships with Pride and Boomerang Community Centre, the project targeted isolated individuals and those in alcohol recovery. Outcomes included improved wellbeing, reduced isolation, and increased self-advocacy, with ongoing monitoring through attendance records and feedback forms.

Just Bee Training Framework	The Just Bee Training Framework, active in Maryfield ward from June 2024 to March 2025, delivered ten targeted sessions on topics like Boundaries Awareness, Suicide Intervention, and Emotional Regulation. Training was held in community venues and included a "Train the Trainer" model, allowing staff to extend the initiative. Participants ranged from community members to staff, supporting a diverse and inclusive approach. The project equipped frontline workers with essential crisis and trauma-informed skills, encouraged emotional resilience, and fostered collaboration among local organisations.
Wellbeing Event – Just Bee	The Joint Bid Events project hosted a 7-hour drop-in session in Dundee, benefiting 168 people. Organised by Just Bee and local partners, the event connected attendees to services like NHS, Penumbra, and employment support, while also offering advice on housing and benefits. Key outcomes included improved awareness of support services, positive attendee feedback, and the value of involving those with lived experience.

Future Developments

Dundee City council and the Dundee Alcohol and Drug Partnership remain committed to supporting local communities in their efforts to reduce inequalities and improve health and wellbeing. The ADP aims to further integrate community support with substance use services and Dundee City Council will continue to involve local people with lived experience in decision making, sustaining the participatory budgeting process, and enhancing engagement with people affected by substance.

Moving in 2025/26 there will be opportunities to further connect the work of the Local Community Planning Partnerships and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership with the prevention agenda and enhance opportunities for early intervention through place based approaches.

Alan Gunn

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20th August 2025

