



DRUGS & ALCOHOL IN EAST BELFAST

Responding to the *New Normal*
– A Guide to Support Services



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INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

In February and March 2017, twenty five groups in East Belfast took part in a community conversation regarding drug and alcohol use in their neighbourhoods and the challenges that face their communities as a result of it. East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA) and East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Stakeholder Forum (with support from East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership), organised this series of community conversation events, which consisted of 10 workshops and an online survey, to establish what the “new normal” is for these neighbourhoods. The conversation events provided the participants with an opportunity to share their experiences and collectively explore strategies and resources that can be harnessed to address the challenges that face them within their own neighbourhoods.

OUTCOMES

The ‘New Normal’ process had the following outcomes:

- **Develop a greater understanding of current trends in drugs and alcohol use;**
- **Highlight the correlation between alcohol/drug use and criminal and anti-social behaviour.**
- **Develop a greater community confidence and representation at Drug and Alcohol Stakeholder Forum.**

The main recommendations arising from the workshops are also summarised overleaf.

THE FORUM AND GROUPS INVOLVED

EBCDA is an umbrella body for community groups in East Belfast. It’s job is to add value to the activity undertaken by groups in local areas and to work with key organisations to ensure the continued development of a community sector in East Belfast that is recognised, valued and effective. EBCDA seeks to support successful community development, encourage reflective practice and promote cooperation and locally based solutions.



East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Stakeholder Forum came into existence in 2013 as a response to local concern about the impact of drugs and alcohol, and awareness of support services. It is a multi-agency forum facilitated by EBCDA and is attended by community groups, voluntary agencies, service providers and statutory organisations with an interest in drug and alcohol-related issues. For more information on the forum visit www.ebcda.org

East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership (DPCSP) has 11 Members, 6 elected representatives of Belfast City Council and 5 Independent Members who represent the community. A number of other statutory bodies are also represented. The purpose of the DPCSP is to help make the community feel safer and to ensure that the voices of local people are heard on Policing and Community Safety issues. You can learn more about the work of this and other Policing and Community Safety Partnerships by visiting: www.pcsp.org



THE APPROACH

Four-pronged approach to tackle the challenges

A four-pronged approach to diminishing the problems requires strong community support. The resources and support services available to address the main challenges within these communities are:

- A** Adult Service
- YPF** Young People and Families Service



1 TREATMENT AND SUPPORT



2 EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION



3 EDUCATION AND TRAINING



4 REPORTING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The main recommendations arising from the workshops are also summarised overleaf.

OPEN HERE



TREATMENT AND SUPPORT



EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION



EDUCATION AND TRAINING



REPORTING CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

YPF DAISY

One to one and group therapeutic treatment and support service for children and young people aged 11-25. Family members can also get advice and support - regardless of whether their significant other is seeking help.

Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted

Start 360 & ASCERT

☎ 028 9043 5815

YPF DAMHS (Drug and Alcohol Mental Health Service)

A range of therapeutic support services for young people aged under 18 with significant mental health and substance misuse difficulties.

GP/CAMHS Referrals

BHSCT

☎ 028 9063 8000

A LOW THRESHOLD SERVICES

Aimed at those who misuse alcohol and/or drugs at harmful levels and/or in harmful ways but who are unable to commit to formal treatment (including chronic drinkers & injecting drug users).

Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted

BHSCT Drug Outreach Team

☎ 028 9504 1433 or 028 9504 7301

Extern Alcohol Housing Support Service

☎ 028 9033 0433

A STATUTORY ADDICTION SERVICE

Provided by a range of specialist teams within community and hospital settings.

GP/Health Professional Referrals

BHSCT

☎ 028 9073 7547

YPF STEPS 2 COPE

Provides one to one support and self help resources for young people, aged 11-18, affected by a parent's use of alcohol.

Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted

ASCERT & Barnardos

☎ 0800 254 5123 www.stepstocope.co.uk

YPF STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAMME

Parents and children participate in the 14-week SFP, both separately in teen and parent sessions, and then together in family sessions.

Targeted at At-Risk/Vulnerable Families

ASCERT

☎ 0800 254 5123

GROUP SUPPORT

Call or go online to find a meeting near you:

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

12 Step Programme/Group Meetings

☎ 028 9043 4848 www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie

ALANON

Group Support for Family Members

☎ 028 9068 2368 www.alanonuk.org.uk

ALATEEN

Group Support for Teenagers

☎ 028 9068 2368 www.al-anon.org/for-alateen

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS

12 Step Programme/Group Meetings

☎ 07810 172 991 www.nanorthernireland.com

A ALCOHOL INTERVENTION SERVICE

One to one support for alcohol misuse (brief/ extended interventions). Family members can also get advice and support - regardless of whether their significant other is seeking help.

Open Access/Self Referrals Accepted

ASCERT

☎ 0800 254 5123

YPF ONE STOP SHOP

A youth friendly, holistic health and wellbeing service where young people, aged 11-25, have opportunities to socialise and receive advice and support on a range of issues.

Open Access

Extern

☎ 028 9084 0555

YPF TARGETED LIFESKILLS SERVICE

For young people, aged 11-25, focussed on lifeskills and harm reduction.

Targeted at At-Risk/Vulnerable Groups

LYMCA

☎ 028 9267 0918

YPF BARNARDO'S PHAROS SERVICE

Support for families and children where there is parental substance misuse.

Accepts referrals from Drug and Alcohol Teams and/or Family and Child Care Team.

☎ 028 9066 3470

YPF EXTERN "REACH OUT" PROJECT

Targeted and dedicated support for substance or alcohol misuse, suicide, self-harm or mental health issues for: 4-11 years, 11-18 years, adults 18+

☎ 028 9084 0555 or 07442 533165

“Our communities are being destroyed by drugs and drink and the problems that they cause with crime and anti social behaviour.” Workshop Participant.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAMMES

A range of drug and alcohol training courses for those working with adults, children and young people.

ASCERT

☎ 0800 254 5123

DRINK, WORK AND ME

Offers one to one, online support and training to enable employers to recognise the impact of alcohol related harm to the individual and the workplace.

Addiction NI

☎ 028 9066 4434 www.drinkworkandme.com

COMMUNITY/STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Belfast Drug & Alcohol Coordination

Team/Connections Service (BDACT)

The DACT Connections Service provides information, advice, signposting and awareness raising (via info sessions and by organising local, and supporting regional, events and initiatives) to a range of community and stakeholder partners.

THE RAPID INITIATIVE

RAPID is a health and safety community initiative that promotes and facilitates the removal of all types of prescription and illegal drugs from the community.

RAPID raises awareness of the risks and harm to individuals, families and communities regarding the use and misuse of drugs.

☎ 028 9590 1845 www.drugsandalcoholni.info

connections@bdact.info

For more detailed information on services available in your area visit:

www.drugsandalcoholni.info

“Our communities are being left to the hands of the drug dealers, no one seems to care.” Workshop Participant.



“There's a rise in drugs debts and more people getting drugs on tick.” Workshop Participant.

“We would drink a load of vodka shots before we go out, we start drinking from about 7pm and head to the bar about 11pm anything wrong with cannabis sure it is legal in a lot of countries.” Workshop Participant.

PSNI

☎ For all emergencies, call 999

For non-emergencies you can call the police on

☎ 101

For more information about when to call 101 or 999 visit psni.police.uk.

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

If you encounter antisocial behaviour in your area, you can contact the antisocial behaviour officers for East Belfast on

☎ 028 9032 0202 ext 6454

During normal office hours you can contact them on

☎ 028 9027 0469

or email: envhealth@belfastcity.gov.uk

If you witness antisocial behaviour in council parks, you can report it.

☎ 028 9050 0515

This number is only manned during office hours, but you can leave a message.

Park wardens tackle antisocial behaviour (ASB) in parks. They patrol parks at peak times and have enforcement powers to issue fines for littering, dog fouling and drinking. Their green uniforms make them identifiable.

For more information on park wardens, email asb@belfastcity.gov.uk or call:

☎ 028 9091 8767

If you come across any sharps/needles in the city centre contact the following number so they can removed and disposed of in a safe manner.

☎ 028 9027 0469 (during office hours)

☎ 07850 499 622 (out of hours)

NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE

If a housing executive tenant is responsible for anti-social behaviour, you can contact them on

☎ 0344 892 0900

For more information visit: www.nihe.gov.uk

SOCIAL SERVICES

If your complaint concerns children, older people or those with a mental illness call Belfast Health and Social Care Trust on:

☎ 028 9056 5656 for further guidance.

For more information visit: www.belfasttrust.hscni.net

KEY DRUG AND ALCOHOL SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS



drugsandalcoholni.info

 [@NIDACTS](https://twitter.com/NIDACTS)



addictionni.com

 [@addictionni](https://twitter.com/addictionni)



start360.org

 [@start360org](https://twitter.com/start360org)



ascert.biz

 [@ASCERTNI](https://twitter.com/ASCERTNI)



extern.org

 [@extern1978](https://twitter.com/extern1978)



lisburnymca.com

 [@lisburnymca1](https://twitter.com/lisburnymca1)

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pcsp.org
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