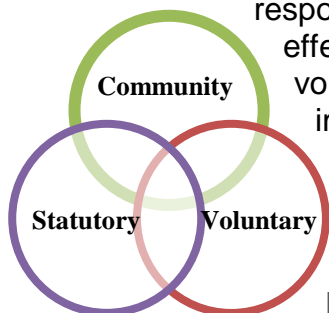


Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign

Information sheet for Community Reps on Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Forces

About Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Forces

The role of the RDFT's is to develop, implement and monitor a co-ordinated response to drug use at regional level, based on best evidence of what is effective. The Task Forces are a partnership between the statutory, voluntary and community sectors. They prepare and oversee the implementation of action plans which co-ordinate all relevant drug programs in their areas and address gaps in service provision



The membership of RDFTs can vary from area to area. However, all Task Forces have voluntary & community sector reps and normally the following agencies and departments are represented

Community Representatives	Voluntary Representatives	Elected Representatives
Local Authorities	Education and Training Boards	Garda Síochána
Youth Service (VEC)	Dept of Social Protection	Probation & Welfare Service
Task Force Chairperson	Health Services Executive ((HSE)	Task Force Co-ordinator

Statutory Sector: Government Departments and Agencies. Representatives from these agencies should be at a sufficiently senior level, or have access to people in their organisation who are in a position to influence policy

Voluntary Sector: Drugs Service Providers (delivered by voluntary and community based organisations)

Community Sector: Community based groups and networks working locally

Where are the Regional Drugs Task Forces?

East Coast

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Wicklow

Midland

Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath

Mid Western

Clare, Limerick, Tipperary NR

North Dublin City & County (Northern Area)

North Dublin City, Fingal

North Eastern

East Cavan, Louth, Meath, Monaghan

North West

Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, West Cavan

Southern

Cork, Kerry

South East

Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary SR,
Waterford, Wexford

South Western Area

South Dublin City, South Dublin, Kildare,
West Wicklow

Western

Galway, Mayo, Roscommon

Are there Drug Task Forces in the rest of the country?

Yes, Local Drug Task Forces (LDTF's) were set up in 1997 in the areas experiencing the worst levels of opiate misuse. There are 12 LDTF's in areas of Dublin, one in Bray and one in Cork city.

How do drug problems in a local community get action?

Community reps through their networks and groups identify issues from their local community. The RDTF community reps meet before each Task Force meeting to establish common objectives for the meeting. These issues are then brought to the full Task Force meeting for discussion and appropriate action is decided.

How do emerging problems in local areas get communicated to the government?

The National Drugs Strategy has structures for linking the work of the Local and Regional Task Forces to the work of policy committees and to the Minister directly. On the back page of this leaflet we have included a diagram that shows how Task Forces are linked to the decision and policy making committees.

How does the community voice get heard at decision and policy making level?

Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign is the representative organisation for the community sector on all national policy making committees. We bring together the Task Force community reps on a regular basis to identify issues on the ground and we raise those issues at appropriate level. We also facilitate regular meetings between the Network of Community Reps and the Minister with responsibility for drugs.

About the Community Representative

How do you become a Drug Task Force Community Rep?

There are six community representatives on each Task Force. Community Reps are nominated in a number of ways but the following principles should be considered:

- That there is an appropriate geographical spread of representation for the area;
- Community Networks with a strong track record in community development should nominate the reps
- Community Reps should have relevant knowledge and experience of the drugs issue in order to play a full and productive role on the Taskforce;
- The Community Rep should have the active support of the communities they represent.

What is the role of Drug Task Force Community Reps?

The overall role of a Community Representative is:

- To act as a representative on behalf of your community at the Task Force
- To bring the benefit of your own local knowledge and experience of the drugs issue to the Task Force

Your role in the community

- To provide information to the community
- To organize and facilitate discussion and debate in the community
- Provide feedback to the Task Force

The Supports you need for this role

- ✓ Structures in the community to allow you to feedback information and to identify issues
- ✓ Shared responsibility with other community people – you are not alone in representing your community's interest. You need to have a local network to support your work
- ✓ Shared responsibility with other Task Force members – All Task Force members are in place to facilitate a more effective response to the drug problem in your area

Your role in the Task Force

- Actively participate in full Task Force meetings and sub-group or Working Groups
- Meet in advance of all Task Force meetings with the other community representatives on your Task Force to develop common objectives and approaches on behalf of the community

The Supports you need for this role.

- ✓ Administration and office facilities
- ✓ Technical assistance and training
- ✓ Expenses

Community Representatives are not members of the Task Force as individuals. They are not there to represent the interests of any particular organisation.

Community Reps are nominated as people who can represent the interests of the wider community. Their role is to bring the view of the wider community to the Task Force and to keep their community informed on the Task Force's work

Citywide Community Reps Network

Citywide facilitates the Taskforce Community Representatives Network by bringing people together to support each other, exchange information and to identify key policy issues and develop responses. The network meets a number of times each year to discuss issues specific to the role of community reps.

Contact Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign Tel: 01 8365090

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Glossary of Terms commonly used

Often new members of groups or committees can be confused by the language and abbreviations (or acronyms) that other members use. Below is a list of some of the terms you may come across at Task Force meetings and their meanings:

CDBs	City/County Development Boards	LDATF	Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force
CE	Community Employment	NACDA	National Advisory Committee on Drugs & Alcohol
CPF	Community Policing Forum	NCC/DATF	National Coordinating Committee Drug & Alcohol Task Force
DCC	Dublin City Council	NDS	National Drugs Strategy
DCYA	Dept Children & Youth Affairs	NDRIC	National Drug Rehabilitation Implementation Committee
D/E&S	Department of Education & Skills	RDATF	Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
DOH	Department of Health	SCP	School Completion Programme
DMRD	Drug Misuse Research Division (<i>Of the Health Research Board</i>)	SPHE	Social, Personal and Health Education
DSP	Dept of Social Protection	YPFSF	Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund
HRB	Health Research Board		
HSE	Health Services Executive		

Add your own:

Structures of the National Drugs Strategy

