



# #BUDGET2023

## COMMUNITY DRUG SERVICES SAVE LIVES - RESTORATION OF CORE FUNDING IS NOW CRITICAL

#FundCommDrugProjects

**Drug & Alcohol Task Force (DATF) Community Drug Projects are places that change lives and save lives.** Community Drug Projects work in collaboration with statutory and voluntary agencies to address the wide range of issues that can impact on the lives of their service users.

Our communities are experiencing the impact of polydrug use, drug-related harms and drug-related deaths that are preventable. **The National Drug and Alcohol Survey (NDAS) 2019 – 2020<sup>1</sup>** found that while there is little difference in the prevalence of drug use in areas that are most and least deprived, **communities with high levels of deprivation are disproportionately impacted** by the negative effects of drug use activities in their local area.

Community Drug Projects are working at the heart of the community to try to respond to emerging needs but it is a constant struggle.

These same services have been struggling for years with inadequate budgets due to a failure to restore and build on previous levels of funding. While the overall allocation to the Drugs Initiative budget in the Dept of Health has gone up every year since 2017, **there has been no increase in the core budgets for Community Drug Projects since 2013.** Despite the government recognising the Community Drug Projects as essential services, the need to increase core budgets is still not being addressed.

As the drugs problem has become more widespread, complex and deep-rooted in our communities, Community Drugs Projects have been struggling to maintain existing levels of service and, in some cases, to survive, and to meet new and emerging challenges.

✓ #Budget2023 should include a **ring-fenced allocation** to DATFs to increase the **core budgets of Community Drugs Projects by a minimum of 10%**

*Between 2004–2017*

**8,993** PEOPLE lost  
their lives to  
Drug Related Causes

Latest figures available show  
that **786** people Died from  
Drugs in 2017

Source HRB

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/34287/1/HRB\\_Irish\\_National\\_Drug\\_and\\_Alcohol\\_Survey\\_2019\\_20.pdf](https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/34287/1/HRB_Irish_National_Drug_and_Alcohol_Survey_2019_20.pdf)