

The National Drugs Strategy is failing to deliver on its commitment to communities

So Where are We Now?

- Communities are not involved in structures that make key decisions
- Key decisions are being made by Dept. of Health and HSE
- DATFs are being viewed by Dept. as HSE structures
- Community Drug Projects are being increasingly viewed as HSE projects
- Other Statutory Agencies leading on NDS actions are making their own decisions

Funding to deliver local services

Core DATF budgets remain at level reached after 7 years of cuts

Additional funding allocated in line with HSE National Service Plan

Increase in HSE budget each year

No increase in DATF core budgets

Once off funding for new pieces of work in 2018

3 year funding for new pieces of cross Task Force work in 2019

Capacity to Respond to local needs

Capacity of DATF to meet local need is being undermined

Centralised application process for new funding

Increasing focus on implementing HSE plan and less on DATF plan

Role is to co-ordinate implementation of NDS – this is across 50 actions
in the context of the needs of the region/local area

Collective responsibility of all DATF members for DATF actions is being undermined

Interagency partnership in responding to local needs

Core role of DATF as an interagency partnership is being undermined

DATFs now to be treated by Dept. as projects, and not as interagency bodies

In effect, this means treating DATFs as HSE projects

Implications for role of other statutory agencies and partners

Role of Community Drug Projects

Serious challenges facing Community Drug Projects in carrying out their role

Reviews of DATF projects by HSE/ DATF

Requirements of HSE reflected in reviews and not requirement for integrated approach

Shift to programme based approaches and away from community development approach

No ongoing discussion on how to evaluate the work of Community Drug Projects

Direction for the future...?

Key Decisions about the future direction of DATFs and Community Drug Projects are now being made

Work on Performance Measurement being carried out by a Technical Advisory Group - DOH/DPU, HSE/Health Intelligence and HRB officials

Report for DPU says “What we are measuring is the combined impact of the interventions that are undertaken locally, embracing all actors engaged in tackling problem substance misuse and reducing its negative effects.”

Performance measurement system will not be measuring a community interagency partnership approach

Dept. will be looking at regional priorities in line with Slainte care

**Communities have knowledge, experience,
understanding, expertise, creativity and
commitment.**