

Substance Misuse Prevention

Programme summary

During 2018 the DLR Drug and Alcohol Task Force will be instituting a new, preventive initiative as a response to changing realities around youth substance misuse. The initiative will through existing projects and services target vulnerable youth, aged 13-19, as follows:

- Young people in community settings, such as youth services, special youth projects, care and after-care projects, family resource services, and out of school education, with a focus on preventing or delaying onset of substance use and misuse, and
- Young people who have already commenced cannabis or other drug use, with a focus on preventing an escalation from occasional to regular or serious use.

The main feature of this initiative is to train-up a panel of 6-8 persons, who currently work with socially vulnerable youth in DLR, in order that

- (i) they have up-to-date information and methodologies for preventive work, and that
- (ii) they provide interventions, through groupwork, with young people, during 2018, and potentially thereafter.

Members of the panel could consist of persons working in pairs from the same agency, or across two agencies, working in collaboration, and sharing a joint workload.

Training for the panel will consist a two-day module during the period April 16th – 27th. As matters stand, it will suit to run the module on April, Tue 17 & Tue 24th in Blackrock. However, we have some flexibility around these specific dates, and more information on this will be available during the week commencing March 5th next.

It is envisaged that each panel member will operate two separate groupwork programmes: one during May/June, and the second, September/October next. A small budget (circa €2,000), will be available for each groupwork programme – details of the arrangements for this budget will be available during the week commencing March 5th.

Panel members will be asked to participate together in three group support sessions in June, September and November. It is also expected that they commit to engage in a specially designed social media training workshop prior to the commencement of their second groupwork programme in September, and to incorporate elements of this social media training in the programme, and more specifically to use this component for reaching out to and maintaining contact with vulnerable youth.

Prospective panel members will need to meet following criteria:

- to be employed by a relevant agency - established youth, family, community, training or other relevant bodies - in working with socially vulnerable young people, aged 13-19 in the DLR area;
- to be previously trained and / or qualified in a relevant social science, youth work, community or addictions discipline;
- to have the direct support of their employers to fully participate in the initiative, as specified above, including, as appropriate, time-off for training and support sessions, and making arrangements to support and assist in the groupwork, where this arises.

- to have the relevant contacts and supports to recruit young people to participate in 2 x groupwork programmes;
- to be available to undertake the training and participate in other workshops / supports as outlined.

Background

Over the last two decades a lot has changed in relation to substance misuse, particularly among young people. At the outset of Drug Task Forces in 1997, the most worrying drug issue, in terms of the problems caused – community, social, medical and legal – was heroin use, and while cannabis use among young people was prevalent, it was, for the most part, viewed primarily as recreational.

Today, heroin is almost exclusively a problem for those who commenced using in previous decades, while currently young people's use of cannabis and other non-opiate drugs has escalated beyond recreational, to more serious levels, causing significant personal, social and health problems. These developments raise new challenges for organisations who are charged with responding to community youth and drug problems.

This particular initiative will be developed by the Task Force as a first stage in its plans to expand and develop interventions for vulnerable youth, and along with other information it will help us to design our programme of preventive work in future years

Next Step

If, as an employer, you are interested in participating in this initiative, and if you have an employee, or two, who satisfies the criteria, and is willing to participate as a panel member, please submit an application form (as per below) to mariek@dlrdrugtaskforce.ie by March 12th, 2018.

Application Form to participate in DATF Substance Misuse Prevention initiative

	Participant details / employee	
<u>1.</u>	Employee name, contact details and summary of role in organization <i>(use a separate form for each employee)</i>	
<u>2.</u>	Training / Qualification Brief summary of employee's training / qualifications	
<u>3.</u>	A summary of employee's participation in previous training modules on substance misuse	
	Employer details	
<u>4.</u>	Employer's name & contact details of manager responsible	
<u>5.</u>	Confirmation (Mark X) that employer will provide work-release to allow employee's participation in this programme and to provide other assistance – including support / supervision – in delivering the groupwork components: Confirmation	
<u>6.</u>	Employer verification (Mark X) that the requirements for Garda vetting, as per legislation and Department of Education circulars, are being met Verification.....	
<u>7.</u>	A short outline (max 75 words) of how employee's participation in this programme could contribute to developing your organisation's work with vulnerable youth <i>Start here:</i>	

Signed:.....(Employer)(Employee) Date:.....