



Strategic Plan 2023 – 2025



Reducing Harm,
Supporting Recovery

A health-led response to drug
and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025



Introduction

Finglas Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force began in 1997 following a Government report into the heroin epidemic at the time. Since then the Task Force has provided local leadership in the response to the impact of substance use on individuals, family and community in Finglas and Cabra. This strategic approach represents the collective commitment by the community, voluntary, statutory and elected public representatives involved in the Task Force to working together to reduce substance use related harm in the Finglas and Cabra areas.

Role of Finglas Cabra LDATF

Finglas Cabra LDATF is a local inter-agency body involving all stakeholders focused on the impact of substance use on the individual, family and community. This role is recognised by Government in its National Drug Strategy, *Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery, A Health-Led Response to Drug and Alcohol Use in Ireland 2017 – 2025 (RHSR)*.



"DATFs have played a key role in harnessing the efforts of community groups, families and local residents and have built partnerships with statutory services and local representatives" (Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery 2017 – 2025, Page 63).

Vision

Finglas Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force supports the vision and values of Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery as summarised here.

Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery (RHSR) aims to create:



"A healthier and safer Ireland, where public health and safety is protected and the harms caused to individuals, families and communities by substance use are reduced and every person affected by substance use is empowered to improve their health and wellbeing and quality of life."

Values guiding the work of Finglas Cabra LDATF

Compassion

A humane, compassionate approach focused on harm reduction which recognises that substance use is a health care issue.

Respect

Respect for the right of each individual to receive person-centred care based on their specific needs.

Equity

A commitment to ensuring people have access to high quality services and support regardless of where they live or who they are.

Inclusion

Diversity is valued, the needs of particular groups are accommodated and wide-ranging participation is promoted.

Partnership

Support for maintaining a partnership approach between statutory, community, and voluntary bodies and wider society to address drug and alcohol issues.

Evidence informed

Support for the use of high quality evidence to inform effective policies and actions to address drug and alcohol problems.



Strategy 2023 – 2025

After consultation with its key stakeholders including people who use drugs, local residents, young people, migrants, local helping professionals the strategic focus of Finglas Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force is on the implementation of the 6 strategic priorities of RHSR National Drug Strategy in its area.



RHSR priorities for Finglas Cabra

Although all of the strategic priorities are very important to addressing the causes and consequences of substance use in Ireland. Following consultation Finglas Cabra LDATF for this strategic plan the strategic priorities of RHSR were reprioritised in accordance with the views of those participating in the strategic planning consultation process. These will provide strategic direction to the Task Force in the next 3 years.

Six RHSR 2021 – 2025 identified by consultation are:

1

Strengthen the prevention of drug and alcohol use and the associated harms among children and young people;

2

Develop integrated care pathways for high-risk drug users to achieve better health outcomes;

3

Enhance access to and delivery of drug and alcohol services in the community;

4

Address the social determinants and consequences of drug use in disadvantaged communities;

5

Promote alternatives to coercive sanctions for drug-related offences;

6

Strengthen evidence-informed and outcomes-focused practice, services, policies and strategy implementation.



Strategic action

Specific actions under each priority will be identified and agreed at each scheduled Task Force meeting in 2023. Task Force meetings will be redesigned to facilitate members to identify priorities for national strategy implementation in the Finglas and Cabra areas. Where an existing local structure does not already exist to progress action the Task Force will set up a working group to progress the action.



Monitoring progress

Progress in relation to strategic actions that are developed will be reported on at each Task Force meeting in the 2023 – 2025 period.

Finglas Cabra LDATF Member Organisations

Martin Hoey, Finglas South Community Resident (Task Force Chairperson)

Sgt Paul McMahon, An Garda Síochána

Rachel Kelly, Project Leader, Finglas Youth Resource

Bernadette Rooney, Social Inclusion Manager, HSE Social Inclusion Addiction Services

Cora Rafter, Adult Education Manager, CDETB, Adult Education

Audrey Cruise, Social Care Manager, TUSLA, St Helena's Community Resource Centre

Cllr Mary Callaghan, Dublin City Council, Finglas

Cllr Anthony Connaghan, Dublin City Council, Finglas

Cllr Seamus McGrattan, Dublin City Council, Cabra

Niall Counihan, Cabra Community Resident

Mary Corridan, Community Development Programme Manager, Dublin Northwest Partnership

Marie McCann, Director, Fingal Centre

Mick Carroll, Senior Executive Officer, Finglas Area Office, Dublin City Council

Probation Service

Mick Williams, Manager, Sankalpa

Cllr Keith Connolly, Dublin City Council, Finglas

Cllr Declan Meenagh, Cabra Community Resident

Dessie Ellis T.D. Dublin North West



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council