

# Argyll & Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership

Alcohol and Drug strategy refresh: priorities for 2023

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### **ADP strategy 2020-2023 Vision**

Argyll and Bute is an area where “we live long, healthy and active lives regardless of where we come from” and where individuals, families and communities:

- have the right to health and a life free from the harms of alcohol and drugs
- are treated with dignity and respect
- are fully supported within communities to find their own type of recovery

### **Background**

The Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) works in partnership to prevent and support recovery from the harmful use of alcohol and drugs. The partnership is made up of NHS Highland, Argyll and Bute Council, Police Scotland and a range of third sector organisations, and is supported by a team to assist the ADP in meeting its responsibilities set out in the ‘Alcohol and Drug Partnerships: delivery framework’ (Scottish Government, 2019).

The Alcohol and Drug Partnership work and actions align to the current [‘Alcohol and Drug Strategy and Action Plan 2020 – 2023’](#), which was developed following engagement with communities/partners and in the context of national strategy. Changes in national strategy since 2022 necessitate a refresh of the local priorities, to ensure Argyll and Bute are implementing best practice and meeting the needs of the population. In January 2021, the Scottish Government announced the [National Drugs Mission Plan \(2022-2026\)](#) to reduce drug deaths and harms. The plan builds upon [Rights, Respect and Recovery \(2018\)](#), Scotland’s alcohol and drug strategy and includes the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards (MAT); evidence-based standards to enable the consistent delivery of safe, accessible, high-quality drug treatment across Scotland.

It is therefore appropriate that as we enter the final year of the current strategy, we review and refresh the priorities and begin work to develop our next strategy, so that we can continue to build an Argyll and Bute where the harms of alcohol and drugs are reduced, and people are supported to recover.

### **Strategy refresh: priorities for 2023**

A strategy refresh day was held in Arrochar, Argyll and Bute on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023, and 40 people attended from a range of partner organisations including people with lived experience. The aims and objectives of the day were to begin reviewing the achievements and priorities, strategy progress, and identify the top priorities for the remaining year of the current strategy, to ensure that we are still meeting the needs of communities. The identified priorities for 2023 are listed in the below tables, under the existing four pillars of the 2020-2023 strategy, which are:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Developing Recovery Oriented Systems of Care
- Getting it Right for Everybody
- Public Health Approach to Justice

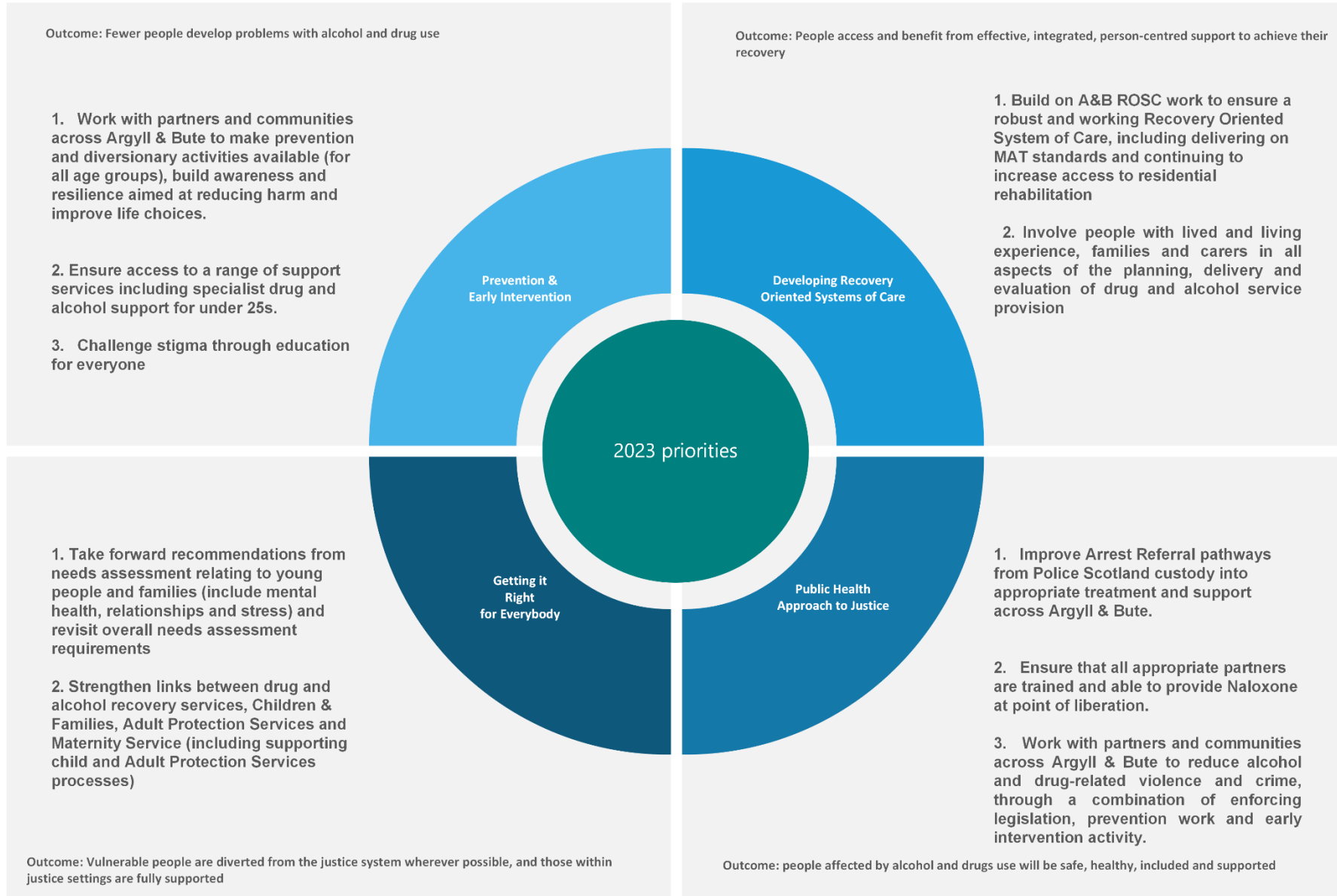
The pillars also closely align with the priorities of the Argyll and Bute HSCP Joint Strategic Plan 2022-2025, which are:

- Choice and control and innovation
- Prevention, early intervention, and enablement
- Community Coproduction
- Living Well and active citizenship

**Along with the priorities, attendees from the strategy day proposed the following recommendations:**

- 1. Consideration of a subgroup to be identified to progress each pillar of work, with an accompanying action plan.**
- 2. Consideration of a subgroup to be identified to review data and measurement; to collate what information is available and how we measure outcomes/progress.**
- 3. The draft strategy refresh to be presented to the ADP and Argyll and Bute HSCP Strategic Planning Group for further engagement and as part of governance structure.**

## Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Strategy Refresh: priorities for 2023



## Prevention and Early Intervention

Priority	Action/outcome	Partners
<p><b>1. Work with partners and communities across Argyll &amp; Bute to make prevention and diversionary activities available (for all age groups), build awareness and resilience aimed at reducing harm and improve life choices.</b></p>	<p>People participate in activities that divert them from harmful use of alcohol and/or drugs. For this 2023 refresh, a particular gap in support was identified for older men.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Community Learning</i></li> <li>• <i>Recovery groups/communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Living Well Networks</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Ensure access to a range of support services including specialist drug and alcohol support for under 25s.</b></p>	<p>Under 25s have access to early intervention and specialist drug and alcohol services at an early stage and young people identify positive outcomes from service interventions.</p> <p>Develop a revised approach for children and young people's support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>ADP Support Team</i></li> <li>• <i>Education Department</i></li> <li>• <i>Contracting Team</i></li> <li>• <i>Internal &amp; External service providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Service users</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Challenge stigma through education for everyone</b></p>	<p>Education and training around stigma is developed and rolled out to staff across Argyll &amp; Bute (including HSCP and partner organisation staff).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Service providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Training providers</i></li> <li>• <i>ADP Support Team</i></li> <li>• <i>Recovery Communities</i></li> <li>• <i>Education Department</i></li> <li>• <i>Service Providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Service Users</i></li> </ul>

## Developing Recovery Oriented Systems of Care

Priority	Action/outcome	Partners
<p><b>1. Build on A&amp;B ROSC work to ensure a robust and working Recovery Oriented System of Care</b></p>	<p>Argyll &amp; Bute have a model for supporting recovery across a range of identified needs Multiagency training is available to services</p> <p>MAT standards are implemented within Cowal and Bute, using a test of change to evaluate how the standards can be implemented across Argyll and Bute (see appendix 1)</p> <p>Continue to increase access to residential rehabilitation.</p> <p>Continue to develop community hubs throughout Argyll and Bute.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Service Providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Service Users</i></li> <li>• <i>ADP Support team</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Involve people with lived and living experience, families and carers in all aspects of the planning, delivery and evaluation of drug and alcohol service provision</b></p>	<p>People with lived and living experience, families and carers are supported to organise and develop collective and individual voices, and are present as equal partners in service planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Service Providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Service Users</i></li> <li>• <i>ADP Support team</i></li> <li>• <i>Recovery Communities</i></li> </ul>

## Getting it Right for Everybody

Priority	Action/outcome	Partners
<p><b>1. Take forward recommendations from needs assessment relating to young people and families (include mental health, relationships and stress)</b></p>	<p>Ensure recommendations from needs assessment are considered, such that early intervention and support services, focused on drugs, alcohol, mental health, relationships and stress, are developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Service Providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Scottish Families Affected by Drugs and Alcohol</i></li> <li>• <i>ADP Support team</i></li> <li>• <i>Education</i></li> </ul>

	<p>Services and supports (including family and recovery groups) are planned, adapted and developed based on research</p> <p>Initiate the whole family approach strategy.</p>	
<p><b>2. Strengthen links between drug and alcohol recovery services, Children &amp; Families, Adult Protection Services and Maternity Service (including supporting child and Adult Protection Services processes)</b></p>	<p>Services plan and deliver in partnership</p> <p>People and families receive integrated support from a range of providers aimed at supporting and protecting all</p> <p>Scope inclusion of housing needs within above to make sure we are meeting need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Service Providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Service Users</i></li> <li>• <i>ADP Support team</i></li> <li>• <i>Children and Families</i></li> <li>• <i>Adult Protection Services</i></li> <li>• <i>Maternity Services</i></li> </ul>

## Public Health Approach to Justice

Priority	Action/outcome	Partners
<p><b>1. Improve Arrest Referral pathways from Police Scotland custody into appropriate treatment and support across Argyll &amp; Bute.</b></p>	<p>A range of service providers work in partnership to establish working pathways across Argyll &amp; Bute</p> <p>People in Argyll &amp; Bute are able to move smoothly from police custody into treatment/support services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Police Scotland</i></li> <li>• <i>Service Providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Community Justice Implementation Group</i></li> <li>• <i>Police Scotland</i></li> <li>• <i>Service Providers</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Ensure that all appropriate partners are trained and able to provide Naloxone at point of liberation.</b></p>	<p>Increased availability of Naloxone across Argyll &amp; Bute with particular emphasis on those liberated from prison</p> <p>Reduction in drug related deaths and near misses amongst those recently liberated from prison</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Justice Partnership</i></li> <li>• <i>Service Providers</i></li> <li>• <i>Community Pharmacies</i></li> <li>• <i>Harm-reduction nurse</i></li> </ul>

<p><b>3. Work with partners and communities across Argyll &amp; Bute to reduce alcohol- and drug-related violence and crime, through a combination of enforcing legislation, prevention work and early intervention activity.</b></p>	<p>Reduction in alcohol related violence and crime.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Police Scotland</i></li> <li>• <i>Public Health</i></li> <li>• <i>Community Learning</i></li> </ul>
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**Appendix 1. Medication Assisted Treatment Implementation Support Team (MIST) Project in Cowal and Bute**

As part of the Scottish Government’s National Mission to reduce drug related deaths and harms they introduced the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards for Scotland in May 2021. The National MIST Team was established to support the implementation of the MAT Standards within each ADP area. Each area was then invited to apply for funding to support the implementation of a local plan to deliver the required changes at a local level that would reduce drug deaths and harms. Argyll & Bute developed a partnership proposal led by the drug and alcohol service providers We Are With You (WAWY) and Argyll & Bute Addiction Team (ABAT) in conjunction with Pharmacy Lead, Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service and the Alcohol & Drug Partnership ADP Support Team.

Funding was successfully secured to support the implementation of the partnership programme in the Cowal and Bute area aimed at reducing drug related deaths and harms across the next four years. The service will cover all 10 MAT standards through the creation of a co-located, multidisciplinary team which offers services 7 days per week. They will use Assertive Engagement Officers to target the most vulnerable including those who have experienced near fatal overdose or are currently in custody/prison. Through the nursing and Specialist Pharmacy staff the service will aim to offer same day access to prescriptions with treatment options and a wide range of services based on the different disciplines, qualifications and experience each partner agency brings to the service. This approach will ensure that those with dual diagnosis of addiction and mental health issues are seen by the appropriate partner agency as part of a person-centred, trauma informed approach rather than in a linear fashion. A partnership approach with Primary Care services will be encouraged and developed. The service will use an in-reach approach that provides wrap around care aimed at maintaining contact with individuals, even when appointments are missed, through outreach, home visits and drop-in services. This will allow people to remain in services for as long as possible. Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Services (LAAS) will provide advocacy to each individual across a range of issues including housing, health care and income.