



**Submission to the Public Consultation on
Challenge and Change: Tackling Substance
Misuse in the South-East Region**

Reducing Substance Misuse Strategy 2019-2022

Introduction

Carlow Public Participation (PPN) was established in October 2014 under the Directive of the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and in accordance with legislation in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (Section 46).

Carlow PPN is an independent organisation and is a framework for public engagement and participation with sustainability and wellbeing at its core. The aim of this structure is to facilitate and enable public organisations operating within the wider community to articulate and give voice to a diverse range of views, issues and interests within the local government system.

Carlow PPN currently represents 400 registered community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups across the county.

Due to late notice and timeframe given for this submission; Carlow PPN was unable to conduct meaningful consultation with its members and therefore Carlow PPN Secretariat will make this submission on their behalf.

SERDATF Strategic Objective 1

Deliver clear, age-appropriate and high-quality information and awareness training on alcohol and drug issues with young people in educational institutions and community settings.

In relation to education and sign posting focus on the following: -

- The update and further development of the SERDATF website
- The identification of and further promotion of online education supports that are already in place

SERDATF Strategic Objective 2

Deliver integrated person-centred treatment and support to enable people to rebuild social capital and move through their recovery.

There is little mention of mental health in this objective. Developing relations/partnerships with local forums such as Connecting for Life would help in developing and promoting appropriate pathways etc.

SERDATF Strategic Objective 3

Support high focus, measurable and sustained policing activities that reduce drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour associated with substance misuse.

Raising awareness of the SERDATF is key here to support and rebuild communities which have been affected by crime and anti-social behaviour due to substance misuse. This can be done through the PPN at Linkage Group Meetings, Plenary Meetings etc.

SERDATF Strategic Objective 4

Support parents, carers, families and communities in tackling problems arising directly from alcohol and drug use. Reduce the stigma associated with drug use.

More coordination and collaboration amongst agencies/support services e.g. CBDIs, SER Family Support Network and the National Family Support Network, required to provide the support necessary for families affected. Also, collaboration with the Connecting for Life Forum could identify existing supports available.

SERDATF Strategic Objective 5

Commission research on emerging trends in substance misuse in the region and develop an evidence base for sound interventions.

Working with third level institutions in the South East would be hugely beneficial to all.

SERDATF Strategic Objective 6

Implement an effective, SMART and co-ordinated strategy for the SE region through a strong partnership approach to reduce alcohol and drug harms.

SERDATF representation on local JPC's (Joint Policing Committee's) would be invaluable from a partnership perspective but also in terms of creating awareness of the SERDATF and its role.

Conclusion

It is essential that all agencies/support services work together to provide the most efficient and relevant service for service users and their families. When people are heard, they feel valued which increases well-being and leads to a better quality of life. Quality of life should be paramount for all citizens.