

Information for Post Primary Schools on the national network of Drug and Alcohol Task Forces (DATFs)

Resources for post primary schools to prevent drug and alcohol use at a young age from the national network of drug and alcohol task forces



Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery

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

The national drug strategy seeks to prevent drug and alcohol use at a young age by enhancing communications between post-primary schools and drug and alcohol task forces (DATFs). This resource provides information on the supports that DATFs offer to schools, parents and students on drug and alcohol use.



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Mindful of the need for substance use education and the Department of Education circular 0043/2018 relating to external facilitators, DATFs offer various levels of supports for post primary schools. The levels of intensity depends on their respective strategies and ranges from low intensity (information leaflets, web links etc) to high intensity (bespoke training, in-school workshops for parents etc). The Covid-19 response has reduced the capacity of some DATFs because of redeployment and Covid-19 related restrictions. It is therefore suggested that direct contact is made by your school with the relevant DATF to establish the level of support that is available to you. A summary of the range of options is presented below.

Support 1: Capacity Building for Teachers

- Level 1: bespoke training for teachers
- Level 2: short in-school training provision/modules
- Level 3: dissemination of evidence-based resources, advice, meetings, e-learning
- Level 4: email and print information & advice

Support 2: Capacity Building for Parents

- Level 1: family support services and bespoke workshops
- Level 2: once off school workshops for parents
- Level 3: dissemination of evidence-based resources & advice via phone, meetings, e-learning
- Level 4: email and print information & advice

Support 3: Substance Use Policy assistance

- Level 1: workshops with school management to develop bespoke policy in line with national guidance
- Level 2: meeting & e-advice re development of policy including templates
- Level 3: email and print information and advice

Support 4: Signposting & supports

- Level 1: direct referrals into services for students struggling with substance use
- Level 2: contact numbers for referrals and information on process
- Level 3: email and print information & advice

Each DATF is different so may not provide all supports however, most will provide at least level 4 under most categories.

OTHER KEY RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS AND PARENTS

Know the Score

- An alcohol and drugs resource for senior cycle students

Know the Score is the first national evidence-based resource on alcohol and drugs for senior cycle students (15-18yrs), and is developed in partnership between public health and education professionals. The resource is aimed at engaging young people in topics including exploring risks associated with alcohol and drugs. It includes teachers manual, videos and other resources.

<https://www.hse.ie/knowthescore>

Alcohol and Drugs: A Parent's Guide

Evidence based resource offers practical advice to help parents engage with teenagers about alcohol & drugs

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/alcohol/practical-advice-to-help-you-communicate-with-your-child-about-alcohol-and-other-drugs.pdf>

Department of Education Circular No. 0043/2018

Best practice guidance for post primary schools in the use of programmes and/or external facilitators in promoting wellbeing consistent with the Department's Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice.

https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0043_2018.pdf

Drugs.ie website; National information resource on drugs and alcohol

HSE managed website providing information on drugs and services for anyone who needs it including schools, parents and young people

www.drugs.ie

HSE National Drug and Alcohol Helpline

HSE helpline provides information, advice and signposting in relation to drugs and alcohol.

Call 1800 459 459 or email helpline@hse.ie

European best practice in prevention and education in schools

This policy and practice briefing provides an overview of the key issues, response options, evidence and implications for policy and practice in European countries.

https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/policy-and-practice-briefings/schools-and-colleges_en

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Regional and Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force Contacts

DUBLIN SOUTH:

Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force – 087 330 9024 / www.ballyfermotldatf.ie
Canal Communities Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force - 086 384 5542 www.ccldatf.ie
Clondalkin Drug and Alcohol Task Force - 01 457 9445 / www.clondalkindrugtaskforce.ie
Dublin 12 Local Drugs & Alcohol Task Force - 07669 55657 / www.d12ldatf.ie
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Drugs Taskforce – 087 649 4922 / www.dlrdatf.ie
South Inner City Drug & Alcohol Task Force - 01 6206438
Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force - 01 464 9303 / www.tallaghtdatf.ie

DUBLIN NORTH:

Ballymun Local Drugs Taskforce - 01 883 2142 / www.ballymunlocaldrugstaskforce.ie
Blanchardstown Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force – 01 824 9590 / www.blanchardstowndrugstaskforce.ie
Dublin North East Drugs & Alcohol Task Force - 01 846 5070 / www.dnetaskforce.ie
Finglas/Cabra Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force – 01 830 7440 / www.finglascabraldtf.ie
North Dublin Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force – 01 223 3493 / www.ndublinrdtf.ie
which includes Balbriggan, Swords and other towns, rural and coastal areas across North County Dublin.
North Inner City Drugs and Alcohol Task Force – 01 836 6592 / www.nicdatf.ie

SOUTH WESTERN: Kildare, West Wicklow

South Western Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force - 045 875111 / www.swrdatf.ie

EAST COAST: East Wicklow, Sth East Dublin

East Coast Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force - 01 2744132 Web:www.ecrdatf.ie/
Bray Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force - 01 274 4230 / www.brayldtf.ie

MIDLANDS: Laois, Longford, Offaly & Westmeath

Midland Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force - 09064 83195 / www.mrdatf.ie

WESTERN: Galway, Mayo & Roscommon

Western Region Drugs & Alcohol Task Force - 091 480 044 / www.wrdatf.ie

MID-WESTERN : Clare, Limerick, Limerick City & Tipperary North

Mid-West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Forum – 061 607 242 / www.mwrdatf.ie

NORTH EAST: East Cavan, Louth, Meath & Monaghan

North Eastern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force – 042 9248630 / www.nedrugtaskforce.ie

NORTH WEST: Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo & West Cavan

Northwest Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force - 071 919 4556 / www.nwdrugtaskforce.ie
Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim, and the North Western portion of County Cavan.

SOUTH EASTERN: Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary Sth, Waterford, Wexford

South East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force - 051 848863 / www.serdatf.ie

SOUTHERN: Cork & Kerry

Southern Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force - 021 493 0100 / www.srdatf.ie
Cork Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force - 021 493 0100 / www.corkdrugandalcohol.ie