

Older People Who Use Drugs- Training Taster

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A national resource of expertise on drug issues

Our workshop aims to...

- Raise awareness of the issue of older people who use drugs
- Explore some of the key issues in more detail and consider implications for service provision
- Provide a 'taster' of training opportunities provided by SDF

Older People Who Use Drugs: An Emerging Issue?

- Drug services are increasingly dealing with an older population?
- The percentage of individuals assessed for specialist drug treatment who were aged 35 and over increased from 29% in 2006/07 to 51% in 2016/17 - source SDMD 2016/17
- ISD modelling work has predicted that there will continue to be a high proportion of OPDP needing support
- OPUD face a range of specific challenges including physical health, mental health, social functioning, higher prevalence in DRDs
- How can services respond to these challenges?

**Older People with Drug Problems
in Scotland:**

**A Mixed Methods Study
Exploring Health and Social
Support Needs**

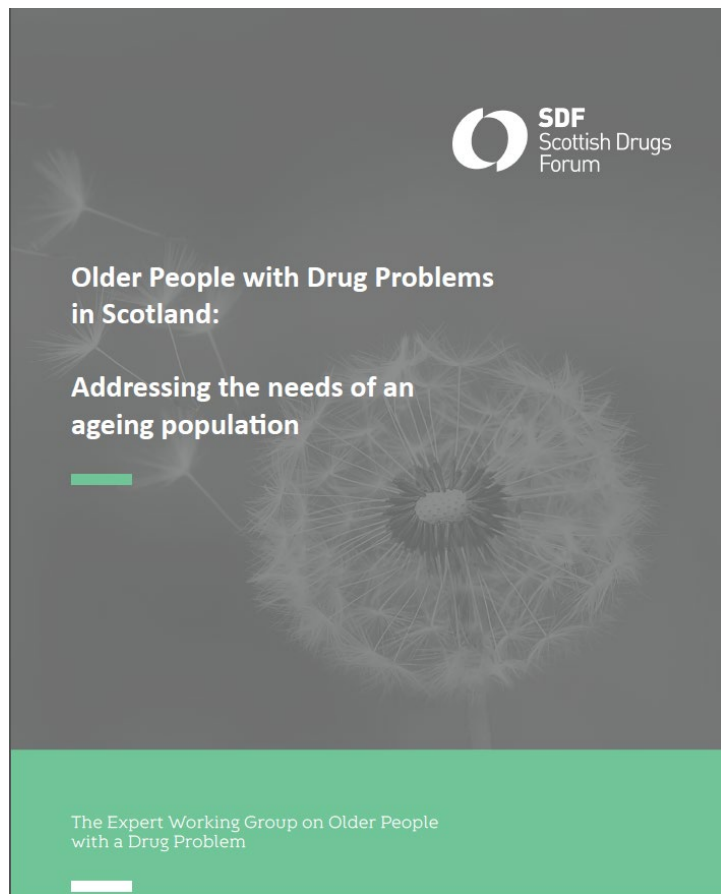
Report to the Scottish Government

**Older People with Drug Problems
in Scotland:**

**Addressing the needs of an
ageing population**

The Expert Working Group on Older People
with a Drug Problem

Expert Working Group on Older People with Drug Problems in Scotland 2017

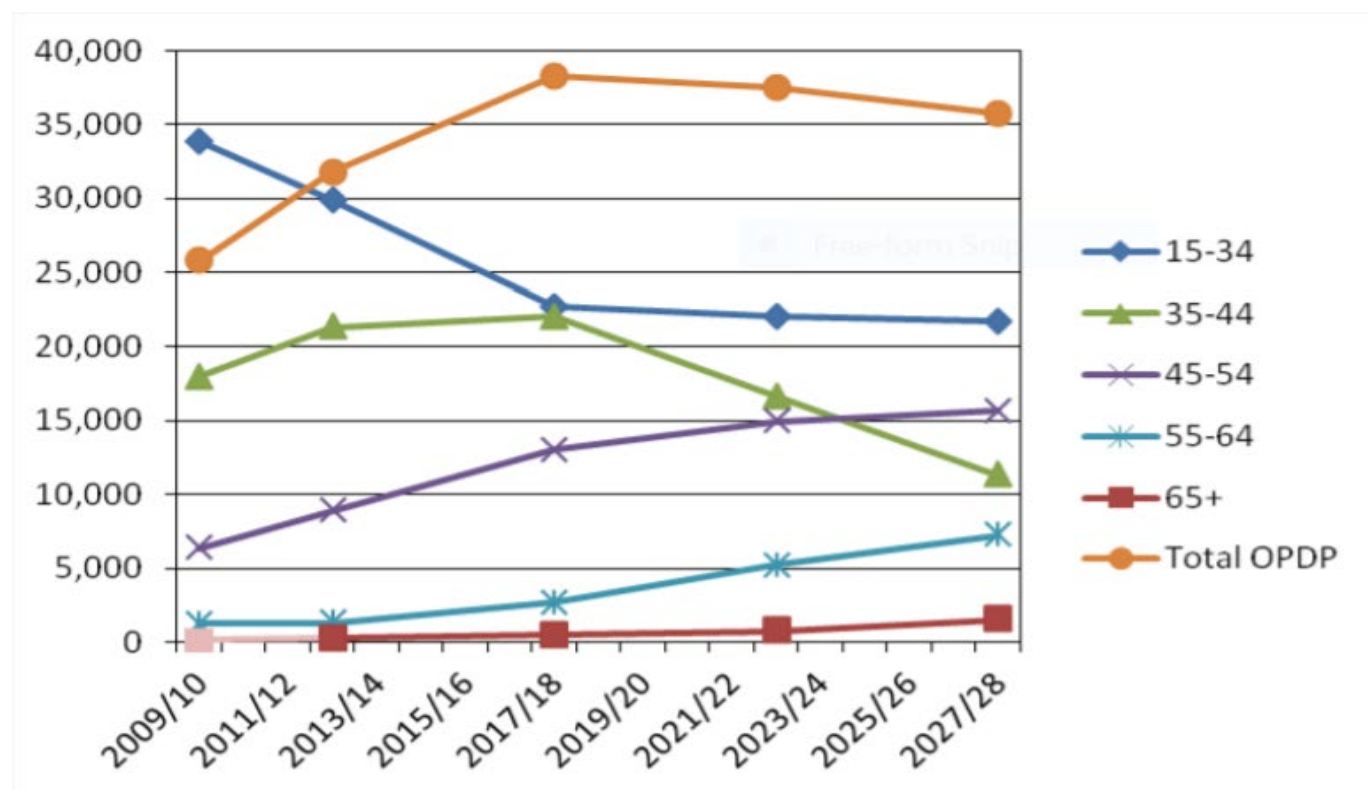


“Effective planning for health and social care needs is important not only to improve outcomes for individuals but also because failing to plan and invest in their care will result in an increase in the cost of meeting their needs in an unplanned, reactive way.”

Expert Working Group on Older People with Drug Problems in Scotland 2017

- Data linkage of NHS data via the Information Services Division (ISD)
- A comprehensive literature review
- Empirical research with OPDP
- Survey of service professionals
- Consultation day for stakeholders

Figure 1: OPDP population estimates/projections (both sexes, 2009/10 - 2027/28)



Source: ISD (2016 & OPDP population projections with 20% non-replace rate)

Peer research interviews



“ I don’t trust nobody....I keep myself to myself unless they ask anything but apart from that I feel isolated. Put it this way, if I was deid, nobody would miss me, that’s how bad it is”
(Woman, 39 years old)

Drug related deaths in Scotland by age 2017

- 15-24yrs - 36 (4%)
- 25-34yrs - 185 (20%)
- 35-44 yrs- 360 (39%)
- 45-54yrs - 268 (29%)
- 55-64yrs - 64 (7%)

Training Opportunities

Course Title

Older and Wiser? Working with People Who Use Substances As They Age.

One day course can be either be commissioned through SDF or booked through ADP (depending on local availability)

Further information contact Richard@sdf.org.uk

Older and Wiser? Working with People Who Use Substances As They Age

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the physical, mental and social issues experienced by older people with drug problems
- Describe current trends and common patterns of use among older people with drug problems including poly substance use
- Recall the impact of problem substance use and the process of aging and the implications for individuals and services
- Identify barriers to access and appropriate treatment pathways for older people with drug problems
- Challenge stigmatising attitudes and practices that affect older people with drug problems
- Identify effective techniques to engage older people with drug problems in services
- Create an effective support and risk management plan

Activity 1

In small groups identify and discuss key issues faced by older drug people who use drugs in relation to....



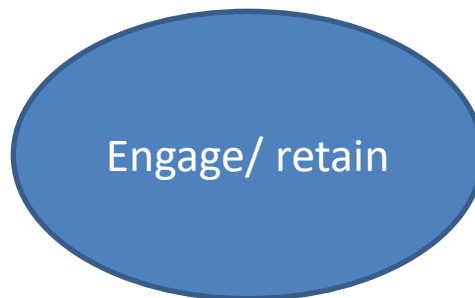
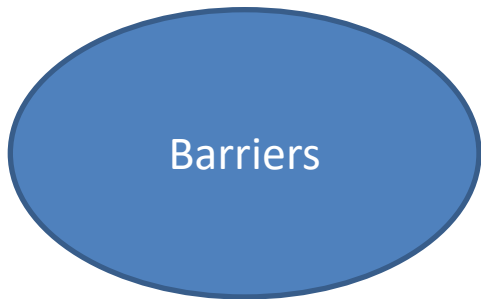
Physical
Health

Mental/
Emotional
Health

Social
Functioning

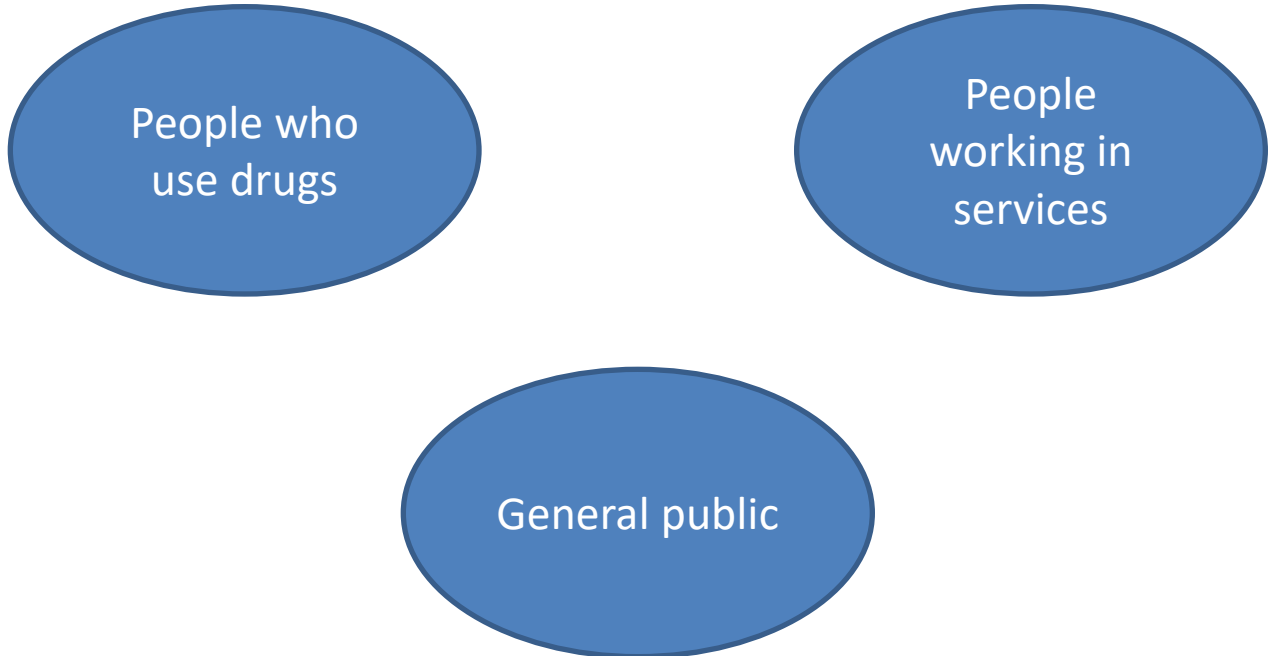
Activity 2

In small groups discuss how services need to adapt to respond effectively to support older drug people who use drugs



Activity 3

What are some of the names/labels, characteristics/attributes that are often applied to people who use drugs. How does this language impact on...



People who
use drugs

People
working in
services

General public

Thank You

