
Report To:	Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel	Date:	18 August 2022
Report By:	Allen Stevenson Interim Chief Officer Inverclyde HSCP	Report No:	SWSCSP/04/2022/AM
Contact Officer:	Anne Malarkey Head of Mental Health, ADRS & Homelessness Alan Best, Interim Head of Health & Community Care	Contact No:	01475 715284
Subject:	Alcohol and Drug Partnership – Naloxone Project Phase 2		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Alcohol and Drug Partnership Naloxone project and to outline a proposed second phase.

1.3 Naloxone is an evidenced base drug which reverses the effects of a potentially fatal opioid overdose.

1.4 The Drugs Death Taskforce (DDTF) included several recommendations in relation to Naloxone including to maximise naloxone distribution through all channels, including on release from prison and through families, with the possibility of using third sector organisations and recovery communities. Naloxone is a lifesaving drug, which the Taskforce have made significant progress in increasing its distribution through channels where its use can save lives. There is still capacity to increase this further, and this should be developed with urgency.

1.5 Inverclyde ADP secured DDTF funding for a Naloxone Link Worker temporary post with a view to increasing the local availability of Naloxone by targeting third sector organisations. This was in recognition that the Lord Advocate had enabled third sector organisations to be registered to distribute Naloxone in addition to being able to hold a stock for emergency use.

1.6 Furthermore, the new Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards for Scotland (2021) include Naloxone in relation to harm reduction indicating that all service providers should “have an opt-out approach to the distribution of Naloxone with all staff having a supply of Naloxone for use in an emergency.”

1.7 The Naloxone Link Worker commenced the post on 19th October and from the period January – March 2022 has delivered training to 120 people from third sector organisations, distributing 165 Naloxone kits. The Naloxone Link Worker has also supported key third sector organisations to register in order for them to now be able to distribute Naloxone directly. Six people from the Lived

Experience Network have also agreed to become peer mentors and will be trained to train peers in administering Naloxone.

- 1.8 Inverclyde ADP has extended the Naloxone Link Worker post for a further 12 month period with a view to moving into a second phase of widening the scope of Naloxone training, including to HSCP and Inverclyde Council staff.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Social Work and Social Care Scrutiny Panel are asked to:

- a. Note the contents of the report.
- b. Approve that Naloxone training can be delivered to both HSCP and Inverclyde Council staff on a voluntary basis, including supplying staff with Naloxone kits for emergency use only.
- c. Note that a supply of Naloxone will be available as part of existing first aid kits in HSCP and customer facing Council premises.

Allen Stevenson
Interim Chief Officer
Inverclyde HSCP

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 In 2020 in Inverclyde there were 33 drug-related deaths. While there was no change from 2019; Inverclyde has the third highest rate at a Local Authority level with a rate of 36.7. This compares to Dundee at 43.1 and Glasgow City at 39.8.

3.2 Poly-drug use is a critical factor with 93% of drug-related deaths in Scotland evidencing more than one substance from the toxicology reports. While toxicology indicates the range of substances taken, opiates remains the largest grouping. The significance of this is that at the point of a suspected overdose where it may be unclear what particular substances have been taken, there is a high level of likelihood that this will include an opiate. Naloxone is a drug which reverses the effect of opiates. Even where Naloxone is administered and it transpires that no opiates were taken, Naloxone will not cause any harm to that individual.

3.3 Targeted distribution of Naloxone is one of the national Drug Death Taskforce priorities and is also a key priority in Inverclyde’s Drug Death Prevention Strategy. Indeed the recently published final report from the Drug Death Taskforce states:

“The evidence is clear that wider distribution and training in how and when to administer Naloxone saves lives. Expanding the distribution of Naloxone would increase its coverage, meaning it is more likely to be available in the event of an opioid overdose. Expansion would also spread awareness of harm-reduction advice through Take Home Naloxone (THN) programmes. Pathways could help guide people into appropriate treatment and support. Mainstreaming the availability of Naloxone would help to reduce harmful stigma around problematic substance use and ensure it is seen in parity with other health conditions.”¹

3.4 It has been recommended that annual provision of Take Home Naloxone Kits should be 9-20 times the annual number of opioid related deaths. This is calculated based on the number of Drug Related Deaths, non-fatal overdoses and has previously been based on a rolling 2 year average to take account of cumulative supplies and kit expiry dates. Greater Glasgow & Clyde produce regular performance reports with regards to Naloxone community supplies. The table below outlines the recommended target for Inverclyde and the actual number of Naloxone kits supplied.

Target 2019/20	Actual kits Supplied 2019/20	Target 2020/21	Actual Kits Supplied 2020/21	Target 2021/22	Actual kits Supplied to date in 2021/22
210	145 69%	580	147 25%	580	74 12%

3.5 Currently Inverclyde Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service (ADRS) offer Naloxone kits and training as part of every new assessment. ADRS also supply emergency Naloxone kits to staff at the Homelessness service and train them in how to administer it. Eight Local Community Pharmacies who provide IEP (Injecting Provision Equipment (50% of all local pharmacies) offer Naloxone, however take up is low.

3.6 In addition, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs developed a postal Naloxone service at the start of covid-19. Essentially, this offers a discreet service for families.

3.7 Nationally, SAS are now able to distribute Naloxone to anyone who has experienced a near fatal overdose. Police Scotland have also completed a pilot whereby officers are trained and carry Naloxone for emergency use. Scottish Fire & Rescue Service are a further emergency service who are also rolling this out to their staff.

¹ [Final Report | Drug Deaths Taskforce](#)

- 3.8 The Naloxone Link Worker has a key role in delivering Naloxone training and providing a supply of Naloxone. An essential element of this is raising community awareness of both the signs of a drug overdose and the safe administration of Naloxone.
- 3.9 Each Naloxone kit (injection form) costs £18 and Inverclyde ADP is committed to offering a kit to everyone completing the training.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Inverclyde ADP seeks agreement for Naloxone training to be made available to HSCP and Inverclyde Council staff. Attendance would be on a voluntary basis. On completing the training every participant will be offered a Naloxone kit for use in emergencies only (i.e. not for distribution). Staff would have the choice whether they would take a Naloxone kit or not.
- 4.2 The training is evaluated and feedback from this will help Inverclyde ADP to develop this programme further.
- 4.3 In addition, that Naloxone is included in all HSCP and customer facing Council Services first aid kits. This is in recognition that, along with other critical public sector services, HSCP and Council staff also have a critical role in ensuring staff are equipped to provide an appropriate response to anyone experiencing a near fatal overdose in or in the vicinity of a Council or HSCP building.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	✓		
Legal/Risk	✓		
Human Resources	✓		
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)		✓	
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			x
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			x
Environmental & Sustainability			x
Data Protection			x

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Inverclyde ADP will fully fund the costs of purchasing Naloxone kits over the 12 month period that the Naloxone Link Worker will remain in post.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
	ADP	2022/23	Each THN is £18		Inverclyde ADP will utilise existing THN stock of approx. 250 THN kits before purchasing further THN's.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 **Legal/Risk**

As part of the training provided the legal context is outlined following the Lord Advocate's advice.

5.4 **Human Resources**

Training will be offered on a voluntary basis to staff and even where staff complete the training, they have a choice as to whether they carry a THN kit.

5.5 **Strategic**

While not part of the LOIP or HSCP Strategic Plan, it is a vital action within the ADP Drug Related Death Prevention Action Plan.

6.0 **CONSULTATION**

6.1 This proposal has been prepared with a range of key partners and has also been approved by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.