

Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces

A whole of community response to
the drug, alcohol and poverty nexus

They began in 1997 as a result of a policy initiative by the Fine Gael Led Rainbow Coalition Government and set out in the report:

“1st Ministerial Report on Measures to Reduce the Demand for Drugs”

Principles underpinning the work of LDATF.

“It takes a village to raise a child.”

This sees all residents, community groups, statutory and voluntary agencies coming together to respond to the causes and consequences of drug and alcohol use at community level.

Based on the idea of “soft power”
“creating conditions in which
mutual self interest – the
understanding that for me to win,
you should win too – could
overcome confinement of silo
working and departmentalism.

A targeted holistic response to concentration of problematic drug use and poverty in the most disadvantage areas.

The LDATF disadvantaged areas objectively, validated in 1997 by the CSO.

This continues to be relevant as confirmed again recently in the HRB, NDTRS.

Ref. Drugs and Alcohol Data
Analysis by geographic area and deprivation indicators.
Health Research Board, 2023.

13 active Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force Areas include:

Finglas Cabra

Ballymun

D12

Blanchardstown

Canals Communities (Rialto, Inchicore)

Tallaght

Ballyfermot

South Inner City

Bray

Cork City

Dunlaoire

Dublin North-East

Clondalkin

North Inner City (inactive)

Our Five Messages to the Citizens Assembly are:

Message One - The connection between disadvantage and substance misuse needs to be understood in the discussion about drugs.

Message Two - The link between childhood trauma and substance misuse needs to be understood in the discussion about drugs

Message Three – We Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force's do a lot to address the nexus of drugs, alcohol and poverty, but we are chronically under-resourced.

Message Four – We see a need for more targeting of the allocation of all mainstream state resources on the most disadvantaged, its not just about funding pilot projects or short-term funding.

Message Five – We see a need for stronger political recognition of the need for an inter-generational commitment to bring to an end the causes and consequences of drug, alcohol, poverty nexus.

TO USE A MEDICAL ANALOGY:

WE NOW HAVE A MEDICINE THAT WORKS BUT WE CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT
TO PROVIDE TO ALL PATIENTS EQUALLY.