



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Health-led Approach to Drug Use

Citizens' Assembly on Drug Use

Siobhán McArdle

Assistant Secretary - Social Care, Mental Health, Drugs Policy and Unscheduled Care Division
Department of Health

16th April 2023



7% population used drugs in last year 2020



4,206 new treatment cases in 2022



235 drug induced deaths in 2017



Drug related health expenditure €145million 2021



Societal cost of drug use €650 million

Irish drugs policy



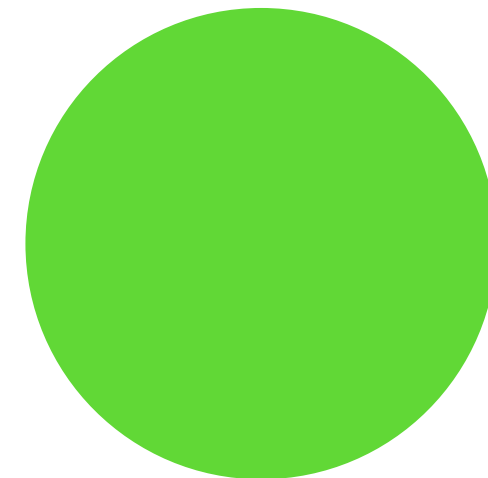
Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery
National Drugs Strategy 2017-2025



A health-led approach to drug use



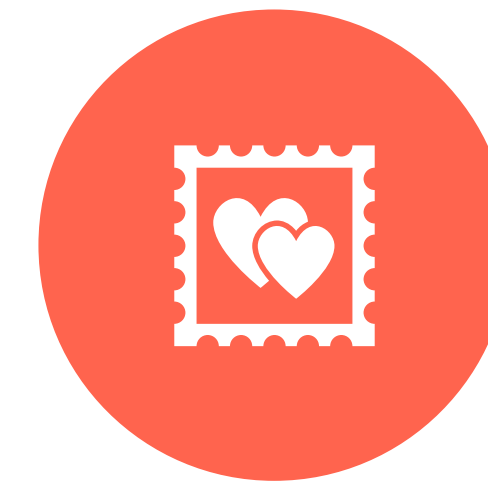
**COMPASSION, NOT
PUNISHMENT**



**PERSON-CENTRED
CARE**



**SOCIAL
DETERMINANTS OF
DRUG USE**



**PARTNERSHIP-
ENABLED**



EVIDENCE BASED



Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery
National Drugs Strategy 2017-2025



Mid-term review of 60 actions in 2021

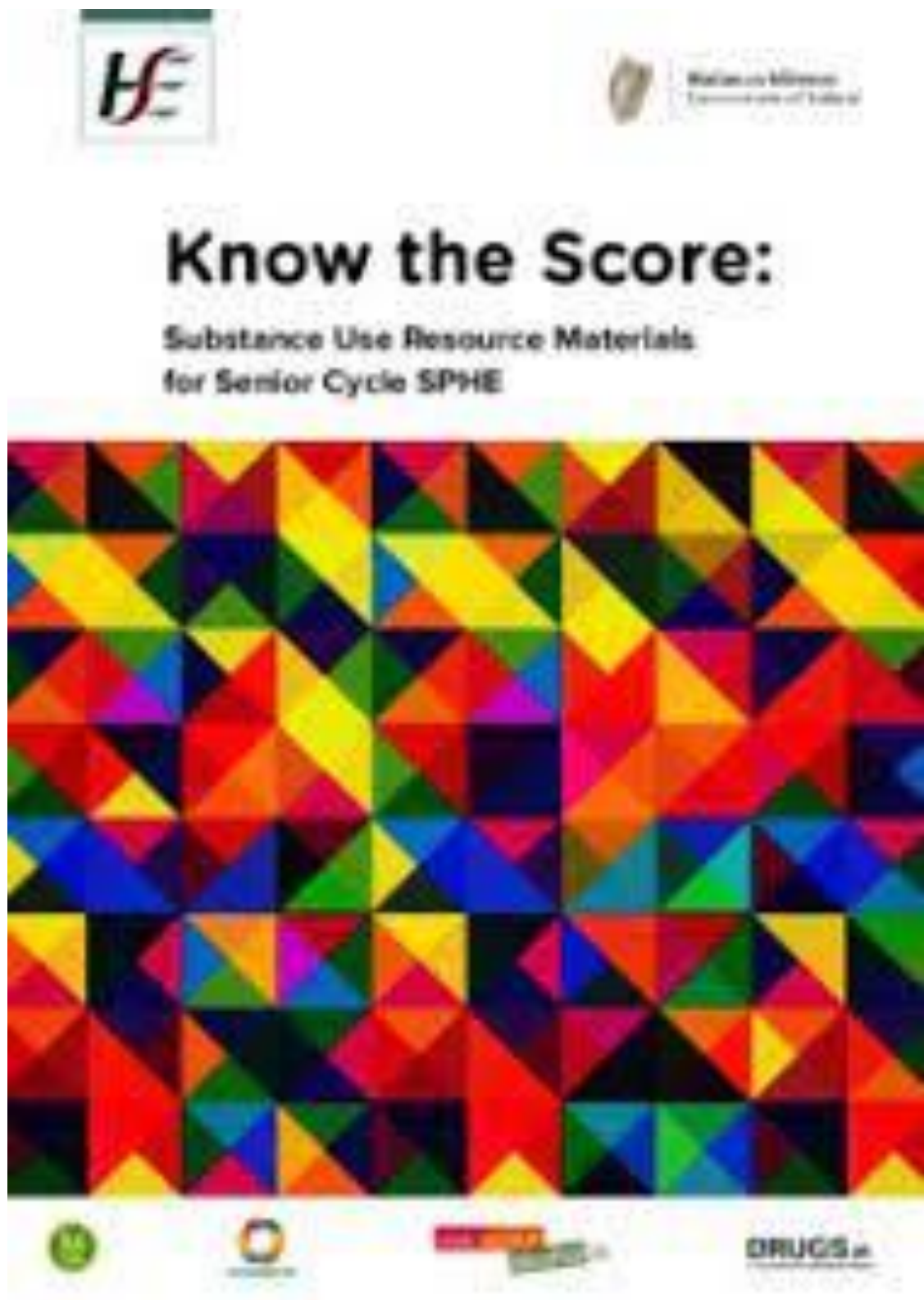
Strategic priorities & action plan for 2022-2025

Strategic Priorities for 2022-2025



1. Strengthen the **prevention** of drug and alcohol use and the associated harms among **children and young people**
2. Enhance **access** to and delivery of drug and alcohol **services** in the community
3. Develop harm reduction responses and **integrated care pathways** for high-risk drug users.
4. Address the social determinants and consequences of drug use in **disadvantaged communities**
5. Promote **alternatives** to coercive sanctions for drug-related offences
6. Strengthen **evidence-informed** and outcomes-focused practice, services, policies, and strategy implementation

Drug prevention for children & young people



Access to drug services in the community



Drug & Alcohol Task Force
Meitheal Drugaí an Iarthair



Sláintecare.
Right Care. Right Place. Right Time.



The social determinants of drug use

Holistic approach to recovery



DUBLIN
NORTH EAST
INNER CITY



Diversion to health services – the Irish model



- **compassion & services**
- **avoid criminal convictions**





An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Go raibh míle maith agaibh