



Annual Review

Embracing change: A challenging year

The Scottish Drugs Recovery Consortium

2011/12

Embracing change: A challenging year

Thoughts from the SDRC Chair; Elaine Wilson

The title of this Annual Review, “Embracing Change - A Challenging Year” made me reflect on the recovery journey and that to achieve long-term positive change, the journey does have its up and down moments, which we must all embrace. The Consortium is no different. The last year has seen us experience a change of Director, undertake a review of our strategy and begin to change how we deliver it. Our aim remains the same though: to promote and encourage recovery in communities across Scotland.

Such periods of change and development are to be expected in any new organisation trying to establish their place and role in the world. In the first half of 2011/12 our focus was on building awareness of the Consortium and looking to what could be delivered locally alongside our members. Members did embrace this approach and many openly shared their stories through the Many Paths One Journey newsletter and website. Positive feedback was also received in terms of the direct support provided by the Consortium. However the Board were aware of the limitations of this approach both in terms of our reach, but also on the impact this could have on us progressing our outcomes.

The Board spent considerable time thinking through, more strategically, how we could achieve our aims in a way that supports a more localised approach. This did, at times, hinder the implementation of our operational work plan. Alongside the Board's deliberations about how to drive forward the strategic approach, Dougie Paterson, the Consortium's first Director left the organisation. While disappointing, it placed the Consortium in a position where

the Board could take the opportunity to take a step back and identify what were the most important assets that could assist our progress and help the organisation become more visible in terms of delivery in Scotland.

This meant both a review of the Director's role but also an opportunity to gain further feedback from a range of stakeholders, including members and those with a wider interest in recovery, on the role of the Consortium to date. Taking such an honest and open approach which was, at times difficult, as some of the messages were hard to hear, was welcomed by many stakeholders. This approach has been embedded into the 2012/13 work plan. The organisation was without a Director for approximately 6 months, which brought another set of challenges, but I have to give credit to the Consortium's Board members who not only offered valuable insight into the strategic development of the organisation, but provided some hands on support to the staff team. Credit should also be given to the staff team during this period, who were without a Director and working to an interim work plan, but demonstrated a strong commitment to the Consortium's approach and ethos.

For all the challenges, the last year has highlighted the adaptability of the organisation. We are able to reflect on why things may not have worked as well as we would have liked and what needs to be put in place to make it work more effectively. This learning will continue to be embraced into 2012/13 and with a new work plan in place we look forward to the next steps of the recovery journey.



Elaine Wilson
Chair

2011/12: What we Did

Work with ADP's

- Survey of ADP recovery support needs
- Direct support to 8 ADP's: Angus event, ROSC groups and membership engagement

Recovery Messages

- Over 9000 copies of many paths one journey distributed
- Recovery Through the Lens exhibition in six areas, 1000 booklets distributed
- *Home Run* launch - a play about family recovery issues

Membership

- increased to 1067; 393 of whom identify as people in recovery
- assisted recovery academy's annual conference

Strategic Development

- Consultation with key stakeholders on direction of the organisation
- Recovery Talk 2012 - 2 conversation cafe style events involving around 200 people over the two sites: Dundee and Paisley.
- Consulting with STRADA
- Developing 'Recovery Guides'

Internal Structures

- Appointment of Network Manager in August 2011
- Review of Director Role and Appointment of New Director March 2012

Who's Who of SDRC

Board Members

Elaine Wilson (Chair)
Simon Bradstreet (Vice Chair)

John Arthur
Michael Blackmore (resigned October 2011)
Jed Brady
John Campbell
Martin Crawley
Keith Fowler (resigned October 2012)
Reg Hall
Rowdy Yates (resigned March 2012)

Current Staff Team

Director - Kuladharini who is supported by:

Luiza Burns
Heather McLaughlin
Anne-Marie Quigg

Thank you

As an organisation we would like to thank all our members, Board members and staff both current and past for all their contributions and support to helping the Consortium get this position of development.

A particular thank you must also be given to the Scottish Government for their financial support and the commitment to the work of the Consortium.

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