

DUNDEE 30TH SEPTEMBER 2017



HISTORY OF RECOVERY WALKS IN SCOTLAND

2010: Glasgow Green, Glasgow

The first ever recovery walk in Scotland took place in September 2010. It was in fact also the second UK recovery walk. Organised by a partnership of treatment providers like Turning Point Scotland, Glasgow ADP and campaigning groups like the UK Recovery Federation and the newly formed Scottish Drugs Recovery Consortium. This walk was entirely funded by the Scottish Governments Drugs Policy unit as part of their work to make their Road to Recovery policy a reality in Scotland.

It was estimated that about 1,500 in total people took part in the Recovery Weekend events, which included:

- A Recovery Conference the day before the walk
- The 'Big Welcome' event on the morning of the walk which took place in the Adelphi Centre in the Gorbals
- The Recovery Walk and Festival afterwards both of which took place on Glasgow Green

Being a UK walk, participants and contributors came from all over the UK - Liverpool, Wales, Sussex and Manchester. The weather was glorious, there were bands and speech makers on the stage giving it their all and the Serenity Café had set up in a tent.

[To view the UK Walk 2010 click here](#)

2013: Forth Road Bridge, Fife

This was the first Scotland wide recovery walk. It was planned to take place in March 2013 but due to adverse weather it actually took place in May 2013. This walk was organised by the Scottish Recovery Consortium in partnership with local ADP's (Fife and Edinburgh) and recovery communities. It was funded entirely by the Scottish Governments Drug Policy Unit as part of its grant to the SRC, formerly the Scottish Drugs Recovery Consortium.

An estimated 800 people took part in the walk over the bridge and the walk festival in a marquee located in the Forth Bridge authority car park. The main stage event included live music, shares and a comedian. Off stage there was a food stall, face painting and the vastly popular balloon man! Participants came from all over Scotland and some travelled from York to attend.

[To view RWS 2013 film click here](#)

2014: The Royal Mile, Edinburgh

This was the first Scottish Walk through the heart of a city; the route was chosen at a gathering of the recovery community in Scotland. Recovery Walk Scotland 2014 took place in September 2014 and we had beautiful weather for the proud procession down the Royal Mile to Holyrood Park. An estimated 500 people attended this walk only event. Recovery Pipers led the walk down the mile and a disco bus trailed the walk giving out the recovery message and music to passers by. We had a series of shares in Holyrood Park from Scottish recovery activists. This walk was funded through the SRC's grant and by a small extra grant from the Drugs policy unit.

[To view RWS 2014 film click here](#)

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2015: Glasgow Green, Glasgow

Five years on the recovery walk returned to Glasgow to celebrate the 'Better than Well' effect and the growth of recovery community in Scotland. It took place in September 2015 and included:

- Roses on the Clyde remembrance ceremony
- Recovery Walk through the city centre and passing through George Square
- Recovery Village on the green
- Music and speeches from the main stage
- Large catering tent for food and refreshments

An estimated 2000 people from every area of Scotland took part in the joyous city centre walk that saw the recovery movement meet the independence movement in George Square. The spontaneous applause for the walkers from the "hope over fear" event participants was a peak moment in the history of recovery walks in Scotland.

This walk was funded by donations from ADP's, treatment agencies, the SRC and businesses. The Recovery Walk Scotland 2015 council that organised the walk was made up of representatives from all the recovery stakeholder groups and actively assisted in the design of all the walk events, the fundraising and the mobilisation for the walk.

[To view RWS 2015 film click here](#)

2016: Forth Valley, Falkirk

This year's event was organised by an independent council of recovery stakeholders (including the SRC) who took on the walk fundraising and organising as well as the promotion of the walk all over Scotland. The theme of Recovery Walk 2016 was 'Recovery Comes From Within'. The walk theme was taken from the budding prison recovery community. 7 Prisons in Scotland, most for the first time, held their own recovery walks so that prisoners too could take part.

On the September 17th, more than 2000 people took part, leaving the Helix Park beside the iconic Kelpies sculpture and processing through Falkirk City Centre to a recovery festival and village set up in Callander Park.

[To view RWS 2016 film click here.](#)

2017: Dundee City

On Saturday 30th September, Recovery Walk Scotland 2017 takes place in Dundee City. Hosted by Recovery Dundee and supported by national and local recovery stakeholders and for the first time direct sponsorship from the public.