



Press Statement - Date: 1 July 2016

Scottish Families Welcomes Glasgow City ADP's Working Group on Injecting Facility

Increasingly, at all levels and across society, drug use is now being viewed as a social and public health issue as opposed to a criminal one. This helps both those who are using substances and the families and communities who support them by reducing stigma and discrimination. The increasing numbers in drug-related deaths requires a collective response where all options of evidence-based harm reduction measures are considered.

Glasgow ADP has set up a working group to look at the potential of piloting a drug injecting facility and heroin-assisted treatment programme within the city centre. While there are no other examples of such facilities in the UK at present, there is evidence of their success in several countries, including Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Canada and Spain.

To have such a facility in the city would mean that for the 500 vulnerable people injecting in public spaces, there will be a concerted response to addressing health and social needs. This will simultaneously alleviate many of the public's concerns in relation to discarded needles and perceived community challenges, both within the city centre and surrounding areas.

Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs is now considering how we could contribute to this timely discussion. Over the coming months we will be working with our membership base and stakeholders to collect views and help shape the outcome of this discussion.

The majority of people who inject in public places do so because they have no other choice and as one respondent to a study undertaken by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, 'Taking Away the Chaos: The health needs of people who inject in public places in Glasgow city centre' stated, *"It is desperation that drives me to do this."*

Notes to Editors:

- Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs is a national charity providing support to families and friends affected by a loved one's problematic substance use. Families and friends can access a variety of services including a national helpline, one-to-one and groups support, training opportunities and community engagement activities to help cope with their loved one's substance misuse, rebuild relationships and improve their wellbeing. For more information contact 0141 221 0544 or info@sfad.org.uk and visit the website: www.sfad.org.uk Helpline: 08080 10 10 11.

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, 'Taking Away the Chaos: The health needs of people who inject in public places in Glasgow city centre

[nhsggc_health_needs_drug_injectors_summary.pdf](#)