

Dear colleagues,

The Scottish Drugs Forum wishes to make a general statement (rather than detailed comments) with regard to the document Consultation on Independent Advocacy – Guide for Commissioners

We feel that closer consideration needs to be given to the advocacy needs of those people with substance use problems. The UK Drug Policy Commission (2010) states that “ Stigmatization occurs when a person possesses an attribute or status (a ‘stigma’) that makes that person less desirable or acceptable in other people’s eyes and which thereby affects their interactions with others. While at one level, we have all been stigmatized at some point in the past, this phenomenon becomes much more serious when the stigma takes centre stage, to the obscuration of the rest of a person’s identity: when it becomes a ‘master status’. Problem drug use is one such master status”.

People with substance use problems may have experienced both childhood and adulthood trauma. They may be vulnerable at the point of attempting to access treatment (and during treatment) so may not be in a position to assertively advocate for their rights. It is vitally important that advocacy services are able to meet the needs of this marginalised group. I have attached executive summary of report *Trauma and Recovery amongst people who have injected drugs in the past five years* produced by SDF in conjunction with Professor Hammersley of University of Hull and Dr Dalgarno of Glasgow Caledonian University.



Trauma and
Recovery.pdf

I hope this is helpful

Regards

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