NEWSLETTER

National and local information that may be of interest to members.

October 2025

November has arrived and so has the Angus Alcohol and Drug Partnership Newsletter. It brings together a range of local and national updates, learning opportunities, and resources which may be of interest to those working in or affected by substance use and mental health issues. From training sessions and family support resources to national campaigns, we hope this information helps support your work and community engagement.

LOCAL

Digital Lifelines funding phase 3 has arrived in Angus. We have been successful in being one of two areas in Scotland to be awarded the funding alongside East Ayrshire.

This funding will not only help support those impacted by substance use but also support partnership working within services in Angus. The Angus ADP are working alongside the Vibrant Communities Team, Homeless Prevention Service, Community Justice Service, AIDARS and with our third sector partners Hillcrest Futures, TCA and Angus Independent Advocacy.

We also plan to work with all services supporting those using drugs. There will be a link on the Angus ADP Website where you can apply on behalf of someone you are supporting. More information will be on the website.

https://www.angus.gov.uk/social_care_and_health/alcohol_and_drugs/help_with_internet_access_and_devices

https://digitallifelines.scot/

The '**By My Side**' app is a digital harm reduction resource currently available for harm reduction in mental health and sexual health. Through the support from Digital Lifelines, we are in the process of developing the app to aid those who are impacted by substance use. Please share widely with those you are working with.
https://www.simonscotland.org/programme/by-my-side/

Scottish Recovery Consortium are coming to Angus to support the development of our recovery community. Sessions are initially planned for the Well-Bean Recovery Cafés to

chat with those with lived and living experience to find out what they want and need to support them in their recovery. The first session is on Tuesday 11th November, so please encourage those you are supporting to come along to the Forfar café from 12-2pm. https://scottishrecoveryconsortium.org/

Well-Bean Cafés run every week in Angus. They are Recovery Cafés open to everyone in Angus. There are information sessions including support with energy bills, welfare rights, volunteering opportunities and much more. In the first week of November there will be sessions on the Charter of Rights with Angus Independent Advocacy. See dates and times for cafés below, and feel free to get in touch for more information. Brechin Café is coming soon on a Monday, watch this space!

Well-Bean Café dates and times

Tuesday – East & Old Parish Church, 38-40 East High St, Forfar DD8 2EG 12.15- 2pm
Wednesday - C.A.F.E Project, Brothock Bridge, Arbroath DD11 1NF 12.15- 2pm
Thursday - MoHub, 98 Murray Street, Montrose DD10 8JG 12.15- 2pm

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Hold the date - **This Fierce Love** is coming to Angus on Friday 16th January 2026, delivered through *Scottish Families Affected by Drugs and Alcohol*.

Scottish Families have a big ambition: No more hidden families. In January 2026 we are hosting an in-person event which tells a family member's story of living with problematic alcohol and drug use. This is an interactive workshop event where we will listen to this story then discuss and reflect on what we have heard together. *Scottish Families* are raising awareness of families' experiences and creating opportunities for families to be seen and heard. We believe that recognising, supporting, and including families is the change we need to see in Scotland to reduce alcohol and drug-related harm. This event is open to all, including practitioners. We hope you can join us. More information to follow or get in touch with AngusADP@angus.gov.uk

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2025 Tayside Drug Deaths Annual Event.

The event will take place on **Friday 12th December 09:00 - 13:00 at the Baptist Church on Ward Road Dundee.**

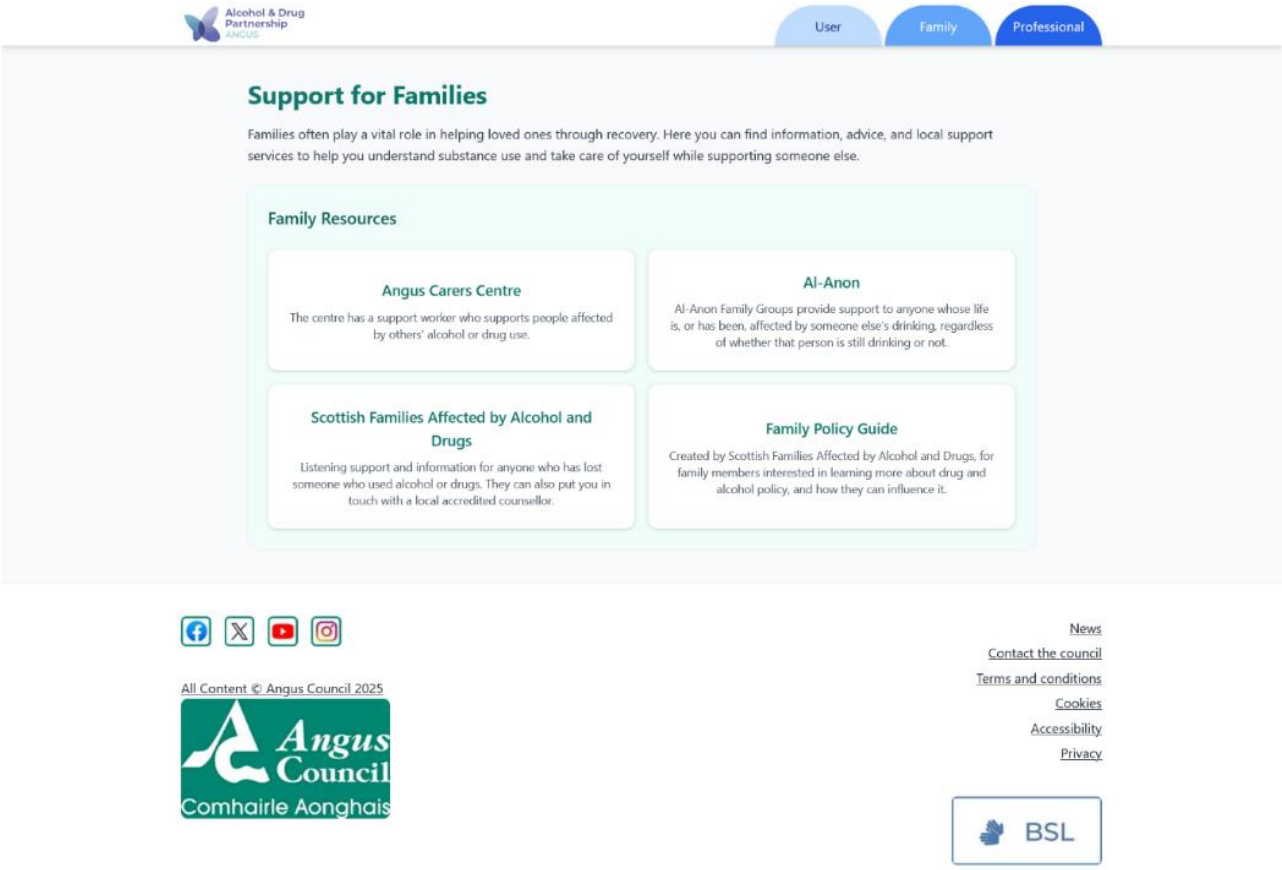
This event will present and analyse the latest information on drug deaths in Tayside, with specific focus on improving local measures to prevent drug deaths and harm.

This year there will be a keynote presentation from Professor Julia Buxton from Liverpool John Moores University. Since 1998, Professor Buxton has conducted research worldwide, focusing on Latin America, Scandinavia, Europe and the UK. Her main research interests focus on global drug trade trends, including aspects such as digitalisation of supply, evolving synthetic markets, enforcement violence, and the impact of drugs *and* anti-drug strategy on conflict, crime, exclusion and development. Professor Buxton has specific interest in the gendered aspects of drug policy, addressing the negative impact of drug criminalisation on women and ways of mitigating the harms of drugs and drug policy on women.

If you would like to book a place please email Michael Craik (michael.craik@dundeecity.gov.uk). Places are limited and will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis.

The Angus Alcohol and Drug Partnership website is in development at present and is due to be ready for launch in January 2026. Here is a screenshot of where we are now. You still have time to complete the survey and be part of this new development in Angus.

https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/Y3qSN9pC



- **Learning Opportunities**

  See Angus ADP Training schedule at the end of this newsletter.

  Learning Opportunities further information - https://www.angus.gov.uk/social_care_and_health/alcohol_and_drugs/alcohol_and_drugs_information_for_professionals?page_id=1595#item-details

NATIONAL

Families' Voices Event - Monday 1st December 9.30am – 3pm

The Studio, 67 Hope St, Glasgow G2 6AE

I am delighted to invite you to join Aberlour Children's Charity for our Families' Voices Event co-designed with women in recovery supported by Aberlour's services. The Families' Voices Project aims to amplify and elevate the voices and experiences of families affected by drug and alcohol use.

By bringing together women and their children supported across Aberlour's community based Intensive Perinatal Services and residential Mother and Child Recovery Houses, this project is focused on highlighting what help and support women say works for them and their families, and what more they believe is needed to help reduce drugs and alcohol harm for women and children across Scotland.

This event will put families at the centre of this national conversation and in designing services that work for and with them, ensuring that we Keep the Promise to children and families.

With key speakers and guests, our event will also explore the ongoing need and evidence base for women-specific services in helping to reduce substance harm and tackle drug and alcohol deaths in Scotland.

I would be delighted if you could join us for this important discussion on **Monday 1st December 9.30am – 3pm at The Studio in Glasgow.**

We will be joined by the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport, Maree Todd MSP (TBC), along with guests from across the public and third sectors, including local authority partners and key stakeholders.

If you are able to attend, please RSVP here. I look forward to welcoming you there.

With best wishes

Justina Murray

Chief Executive, Aberlour Child Care Trust

Digital Lifelines Scotland

Saving lives through connections

Digital Harm Reduction Training

All organisations funded through Digital Lifelines Scotland have access to free Digital Harm Reduction training, delivered by Mhor Collective. This practical training has been designed for frontline practitioners to consider how best to embed digital into direct service delivery.

The training is available across multiple dates to try and accommodate different working patterns and it is delivered via Zoom. The training lasts for 2 hours and has opportunities for discussion and interaction.

Here's what previous attendees have said:

"Great session, open and relaxed plenty opportunity to discuss , good content."
"Good session, really enjoyed it and looking forward to future training with you."

The session will cover:

- The benefits of being online for the people you support
- Engaging people who have limited or no digital skills/confidence
- The principles of Harm Reduction
- Embedding digital inclusion in harm reduction work
- Staying safe online - risks, boundaries, and limitations
- Linking digital inclusion to the MAT standards

This is open to any organisations working across your local authority areas. The more partner organisations that engage the better!

You can explore the available dates and book your space now.

In a **new report**, Public Health Scotland have concluded that introducing restrictions on alcohol advertising and marketing is an effective and cost-effective way of reducing how much we drink, and in turn improving the health of people living in Scotland. **Read the report**

Public Health Scotland

Consensus approach on prevention of substance use harm among children and young people - Public Health Scotland has published a consensus approach – developed with experts and young people – outlining a whole-systems strategy to prevent substance use harm among children and young people. **Click here to find out more**

SHAAP

Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems

From Rock Bottom to Recovery: My Journey Through Addiction, Culture, and Community

To celebrate Recovery Month, Jit shares his journey from addiction to recovery. His story is a powerful testament to resilience, cultural identity, and the role of community support, and offers vital insights into the importance of culturally informed approaches in addressing addiction within South Asian communities.

Scottish Health Equity Research Unit 2025 Inequality Landscape re. Health and Social-economic inequality in Scotland

Scottish Health Equity Research Unit

Insights, analysis and action on the socio-economic factors that shape health

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BUZZ MAGAZINE

SCOTTISH DRUGS FORUM

Meet Buzz magazine: an independent magazine, developed and led by people with living experience of drug use in Scotland

Media coverage of drug-related issues is often stigmatising and sensationalised, and even more often ignores the voices of the people whose day-to-day lives are behind the headlines.

Buzz pushes back against that. It puts vital harm reduction tips and resources into the hands of people who need it and gives people with living experience a chance to tell their stories.

Buzz is facilitated by Scottish Drugs Forum, but the project is independent. Editorial decisions, messaging and conclusions – or lack thereof – come entirely from the peer editorial board and the wider community.

If you are interested in getting involved or would like your own physical copy of **Buzz Magazine**, please contact hello@buzz.scot

Please note that free print copies have been distributed, with priority given to people with lived and living experience. Additional print copies can be purchased at a price that covers printing, postage, and packaging, plus an optional small fee to support the sustainability of Buzz.

You can read our news story and the first issue here**.**

You can also listen to the latest episode of our 'Drugs Uncut' podcast **discussing Buzz.**

Building on the important work from last year's observational evaluation of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), **Scottish Drugs Forum** has published a new peer-led research report focusing specifically on long-acting injectable buprenorphine (LAIB). This more targeted evaluation explores the lived experiences of people receiving LAIB treatment in greater depth, offering fresh insights into this form of treatment. **Use these links to access the** full report **and** executive summary**.**

Please use the link on the right for valuable learning opportunities offered to **Angus based** practitioners by the Scottish Drugs Forum	SDF learning opportunities.pdf

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ScotPHO
Public Health Information for Scotland

The
Scottish Public Health Observatory
"Working to improve Scotland's health and reduce health inequalities"

ScotPHO website quarterly update - September 2025

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Scottish Government and COSLA have published the high-level national rollout plan of the Health and Social Care online App, MyCare.scot. The Cabinet Secretary updated the Parliament via a statement this morning on the rollout of MyCare.scot and the associated plan which details the approach and delivery of the service. More information is available at Gov.scot.

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's Stage 1 Report on the Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill has now been published: **Stage 1 report: Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill | Scottish Parliament**

ADP TRAINING

Please also refer to the PPA Newsletter for other training opportunities - click this link to receive the newsletter direct to your mailbox or email ProtectingPeopleAngus@angus.gov.uk to request being added to the subscriber list.

Click on the title below to find out more or book a place.

NOVEMBER			
19/11/25	Breaking Free Online	13.00 - 15.00	Teams
20/11/25	Overdose Awareness & Naloxone Training	10.30 - 12.00	Brechin
25/11/25	Everyone has a Story (SDF)	09.30 - 16.30	Bruce House, Arbroath
DECEMBER			
04/12/25	Psychostimulant Information Session	14.00 - 16.00	Montrose
03/12/25	Understanding Stigma (SDF)	09.15 - 13.30	Teams
08/12/25	Breaking Free Online	10.00 - 12.00	Teams
10/12/25	Overdose Awareness & Naloxone Training	14.30 - 16.00	Arbroath
JANUARY			
22/01/26	Trauma & Substance Use (SDF)	09.30 - 16.30	Bruce House, Arbroath

More 2026 dates coming soon