Dun Laoghaire Rathdown – Drug and Alcohol Task Force

**Invitation to Conduct Research**

The Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Drug and Alcohol Task Force, in conjunction with Southside Partnership and Dublin Rathdown Community Addiction Team, invites submissions from suitably qualified parties to conduct a research project, as outlined below, to commence during 2019.

**Study summary: an investigation of current patterns of use and misuse of alcohol and drugs in Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown (DLR) among vulnerable young people aged between 16-24 years.**

The suggested aims of the research are to:

- Provide an overview of the extent to which youth substance misuse is presenting as a difficulty for young people in the DLR area
- Examine the extent to which vulnerable young people (e.g. care leavers, homeless people, family background of substance misuse, early school leavers etc.) are involved in substance misuse and an exploration of their relationship with alcohol and drugs.
- Examine the environmental factors affecting youth substance misuse, including family factors, friendships, school, geographic locations, opportunities for recreation/leisure etc.
- Explore the ‘lived experiences’ of young people through their journeys of substance use/misuse, abstinence, recovery etc.

The research should place an emphasis on the voice of young people and what they feel is important to explore in relation to substance misuse.

The sample population for the study should straddle both under 18 years and between 18-24 age group, and include:

1. persons who are homeless, care leavers, early school leavers,
2. persons participating in appropriate services and projects for young people at-risk, and
3. other vulnerable young people, as appropriate.

The research study should use a mixed methods approach, with a particular emphasis on qualitative method, in order to provide insight into young people’s relationship with alcohol and drugs, exploring the factors – current and background - that both exacerbate and mitigate risks among those who are vulnerable.

Applicants should submit the following:

1. Name
2. Organisation/body (if any) and contact details (address, tel, email, website, etc)
3. Names and contact details of partners, if any, involved in the project
4. A detailed summary of relevant qualifications and experience of each individual involved in the study: including data collection, data analysis, report writing, etc and also including web links to published research material.

5. Outline your understanding of the procedures / mechanisms involved in developing and negotiating relationships with community and service partners for the purpose of conducting this research.

6. An outline of the process you will undertake, and timescale, for seeking and getting appropriate research ethical approval for this project, with reference to the most likely body from which such approval would be obtained, and previous experience in seeking and obtaining such approval.

7. An outline of the preliminary considerations and issues involved in planning and developing this research, prior to an engagement in fieldwork.

8. An outline of research strategy and methodology, detailing the intended approach, including detail around methods, sampling, interviews and other data collection, data analysis, reporting and dissemination.

1. A breakdown of costs, with particular attention to the personnel costs of those working on the study, numbers of days involved, and other, additional non-personnel costs.

2. Confirmation of availability to commence prior to June 2019, and to complete field research during 2019.

Applications (marked ‘Youth substance misuse research’) should be posted or emailed to Marie Kavanagh, DLR-DATF, 7 Rock Hill, Main Street, Blackrock, Co. Dublin mariek@dlrdrugtaskforce.ie, to reach by 5.00pm, Friday, May 10th, 2019.

Further information about Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Drug and Alcohol Task Force, www.dlrdrugtaskforce.ie
The following links have particular relevance to this project
http://www.dlrdrugtaskforce.ie/feasibility-study-for-resea.pdf
http://www.dlrdrugtaskforce.ie/knowledge-into-action-event.pdf (pages 4-5)

If you wish to have a telephone discussion in confidence contact: Dr. Barry Cullen, Coordinator DLR-DATF; 01-7060100 or 087-6494922.