

Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnerships

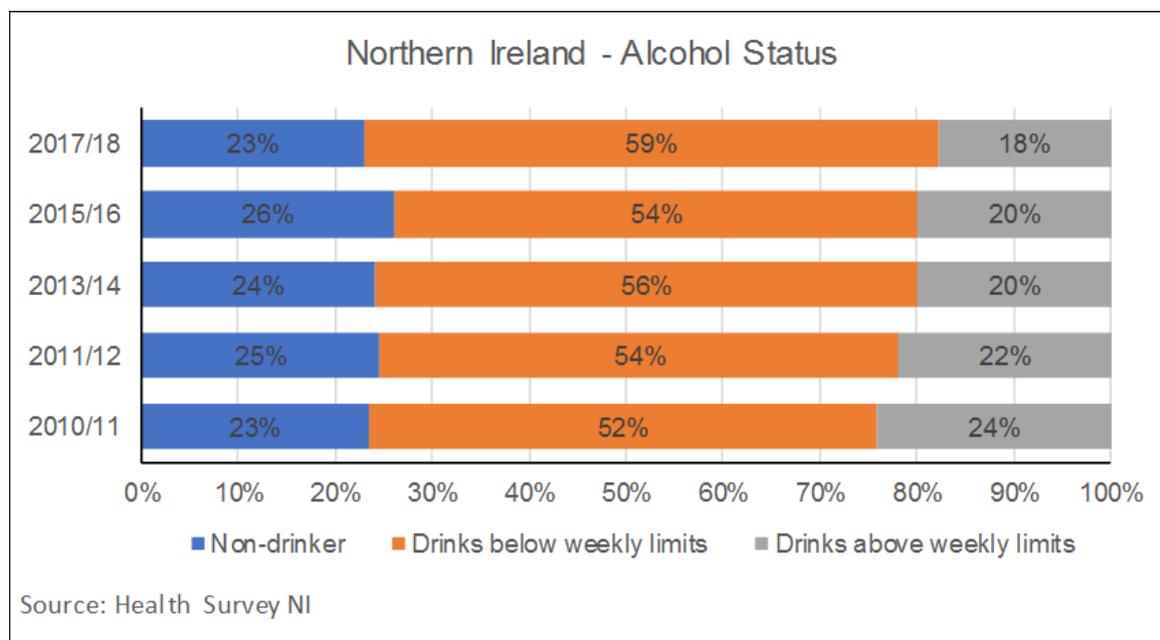
Write Up for Plan

Drug and Alcohol

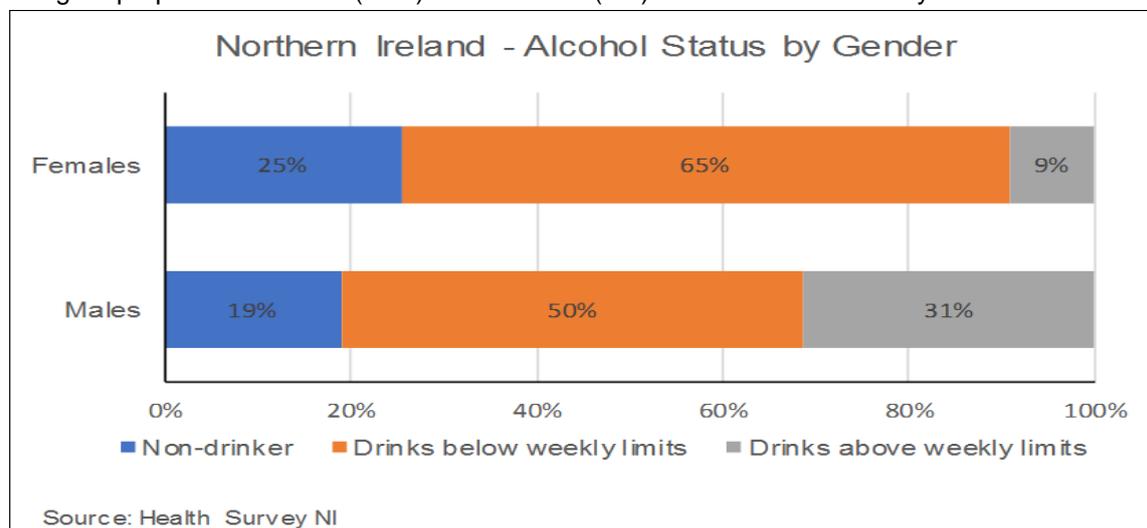
Theme: Alcohol and Drugs

Drinking & Drug Use Patterns

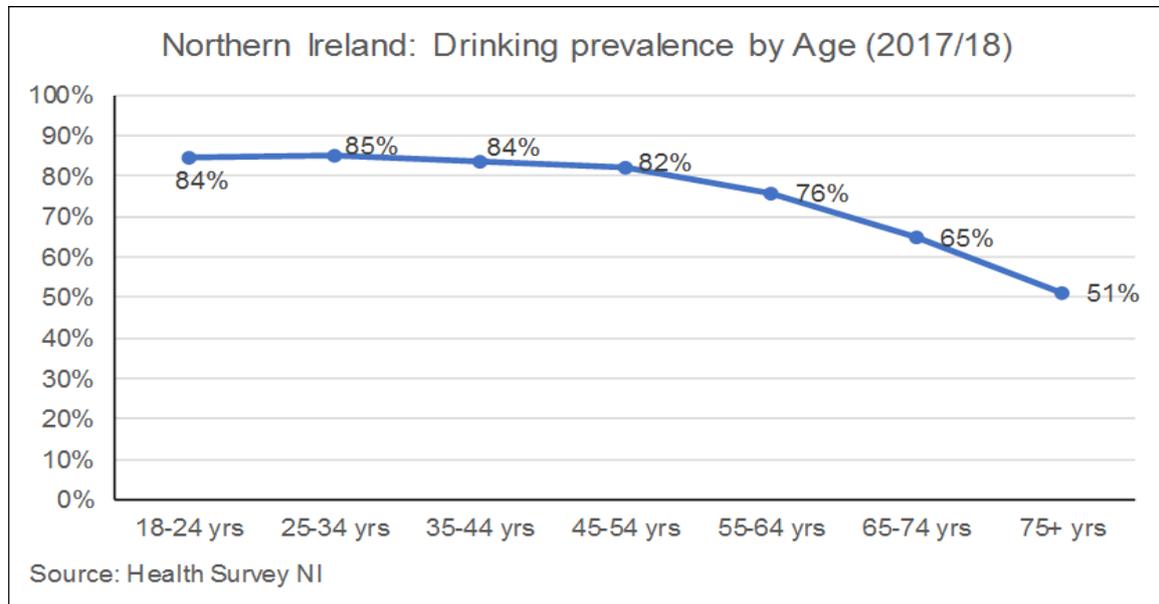
According to the recent Health Survey (2017/18), 77% of adults aged 18 and over drink alcohol, up from 74% in 2015/16. The Department of Health recommendation for regular drinking is not to exceed 14 units weekly, for men and women. In 2017/18, 18% of respondents drink above the recommended weekly limit, a decrease from 20% in the previous year and a 6% decrease when compared to 2010/11 figures.



A higher proportion of males (31%) than females (9%) drink above the weekly limit.



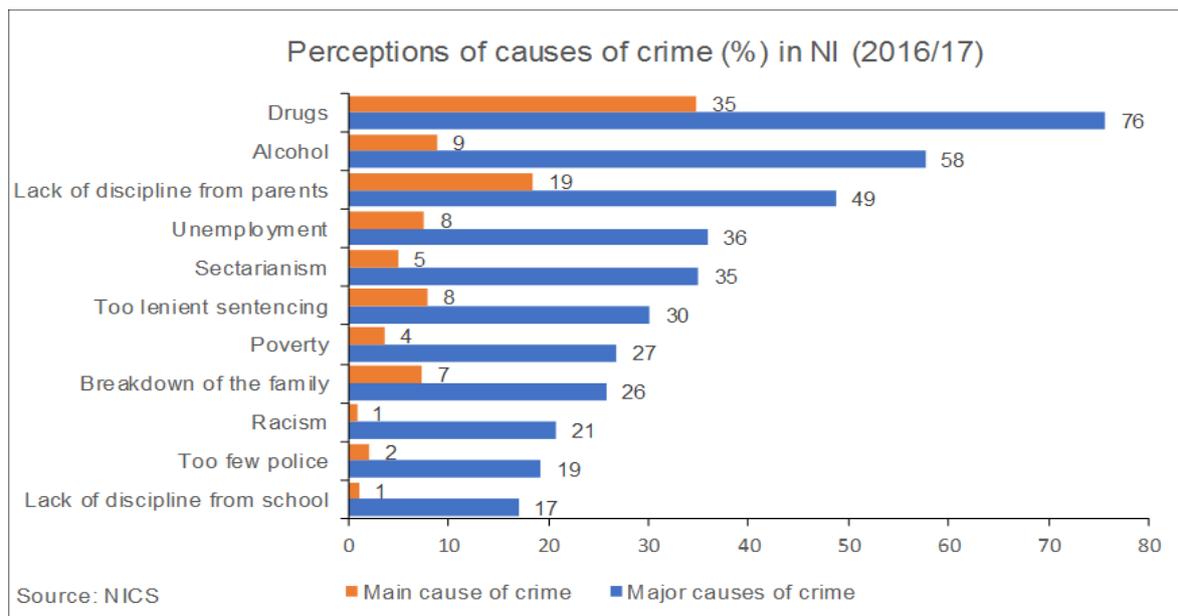
Those reporting that they drink alcohol decreases with age, from 84% of 18- 24-year olds to 51% of those aged over 75 years.



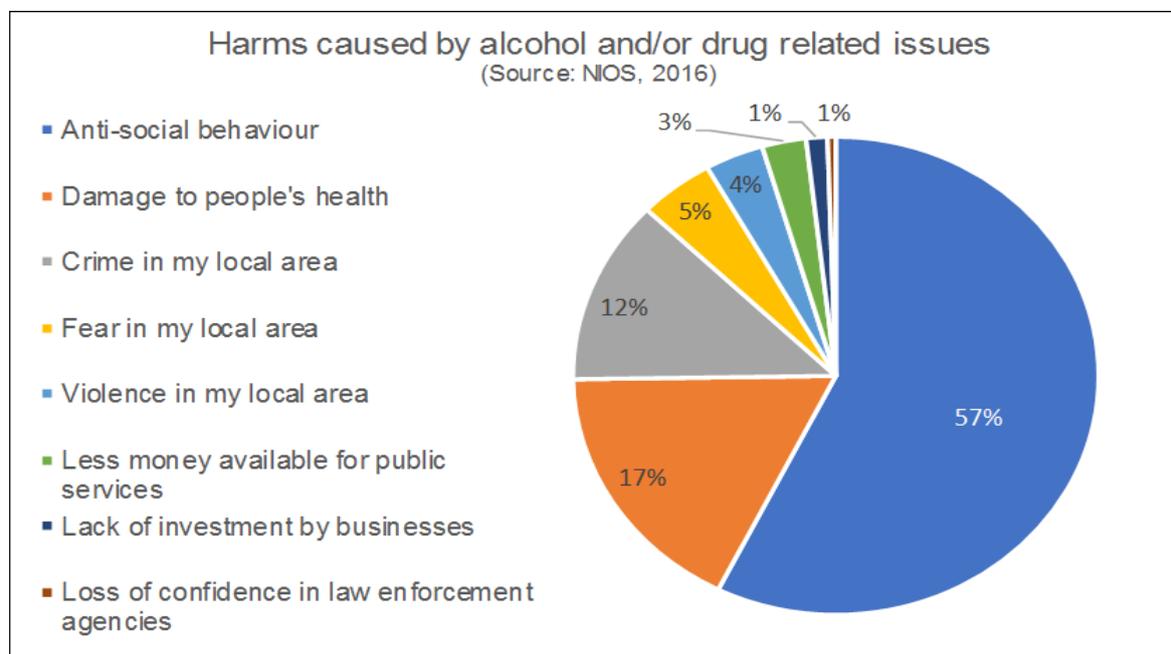
22% of those living in Belfast HSCT drink above the recommended sensible drinking guideline compared with 18% across Northern Ireland.

The NI Crime Survey (2016/17) results indicate that the factors most commonly identified as major causes of crime in Northern Ireland today are: drugs (76%), alcohol (58%) and a lack of discipline from parents (49%).

35% cited **drugs** when asked which single factor they considered to be the main cause of crime.



According to the NIOS (2016), the top three 'primary' harms caused by alcohol and/or drug related issues in the local area include: anti-social behaviour (57%); damage to people's health (17%) and crime in my local area (12%). The most cited secondary harm for respondents was crime in my local area (33%).



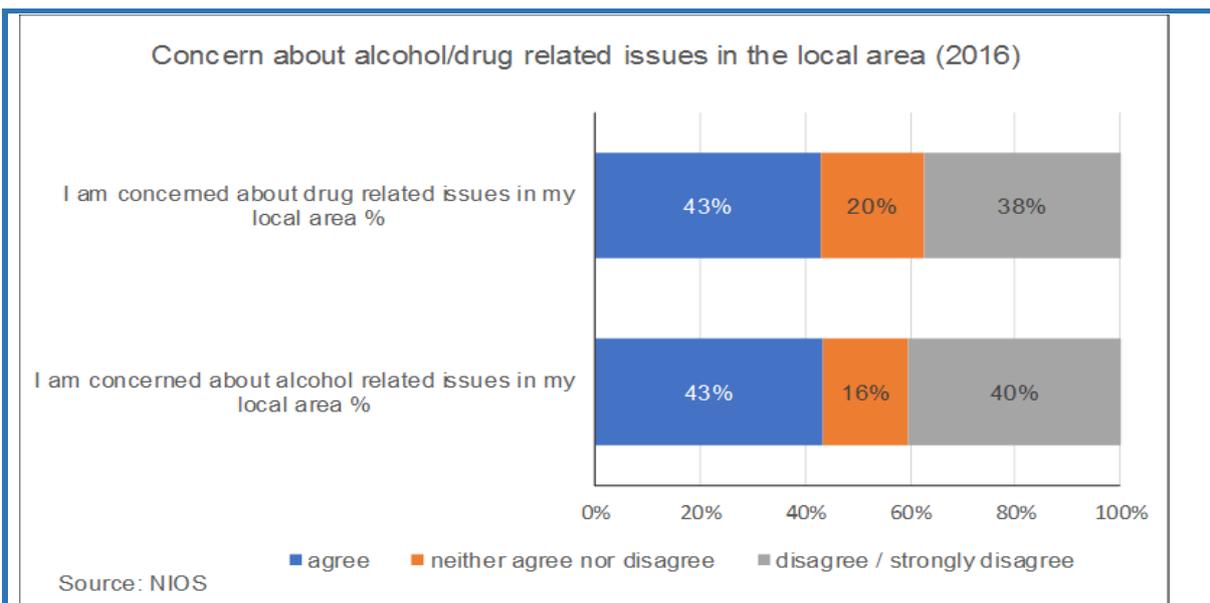
Story behind the theme

43% of respondents agreed/strongly agreed with the statement **'I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area'**. This compares to 40% of respondents who disagreed/strongly disagreed with the statement.

- The most cited primary reason given for those reporting concern about alcohol related issues in the local area was 'underage drinking' (59%). The most cited secondary issue for respondents in relation to alcohol was 'drinking in public places' (33%).

43% agreed/strongly agreed with the statement **'I am concerned about drug related issues in my local area'** compared with 38% who disagreed/strongly disagreed.

For drug related issues, 55% of respondents stated 'drug use/abuse' was the primary drug related issue in the local area. The most cited secondary issue for respondents in relation to drugs was 'drug dealing' (43.6%).



82% stated there was no change in the level of alcohol related issues in their local area in the last 12 months. A similar proportion (80%) stated there was no change in the level of drug related issues in their local area in the last 12 months.

Representatives from the statutory designated organisations provided the following input as part of the Action Planning Workshop:

PSNI

The PSNI continue to play a critical enforcement role in relation to drugs and alcohol and the following key pieces of information were shared at the aforementioned workshop:

- The total number of detections in relation to drug and alcohol had been up by 9% this year;
- Approximately 1,000 seizures had been made to date for the current financial year;
- During Jan – Dec 2018, a total of 42 suspect drug related deaths had occurred, of which 34 were male and 8 female, 21 in North; 8 East; 8 South and 5 West; and,
- Four drug related deaths had occurred since the start of 2019.

The YJA made the following observations:

- YJA continue to respond to issues within communities;
- Increased number of young people are being referred to YJA who are presenting with drugs and alcohol issues. YJA will conduct an assessment on a young person to identify right service;
- Highlighted concerned regarding gaps in service particularly for young people aged around 17;
- Update provided on the new arrangement in place between the YJA and the PSNI regarding the process undertaken if a young person is in police custody

and is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. Patricia advised this new approach is currently being piloted in District D and E, with the potential of further roll out across all areas within Belfast; and,

- Schools Project/Education Programmes – YJA get numerous requests from local schools to deliver awareness raising sessions regarding drugs and alcohol;

The PBNI made the following observations:

PBNI originally made referrals directly to drug and alcohol support agencies such as ASCERT; however, PBNI's own internal services have been realigned to allow them to review individual cases; Services vary according to the need of the individual;

- Use of legal highs are of great concern to PBNI;
- 77% of clients known to PBNI have a drug and/or alcohol problem;
- Drugs and/or alcohol has been identified as an issue as to why people reoffend;
- Highlighted the existing gaps in service and the need for additional/new work in this area;
- Update on Substance Misuse Court Service Sentences. Delivered in partnership with Addiction NI. To date the programme has had 111 referrals from Belfast, unfortunately 6 people who were referred have died; and,
- Key message for PBNI is preventative.
-

The H&SCT made the following comments:

- Advised of the services provided by the Trust regarding drugs and alcohol:
- Community Addiction Team;
- Drugs Outreach Team;
- Prescribed Medication Misuse Team;
- Substitute Prescribing; and,
- Drug Arrest Referral Team.

The PHA made the following comments:

PHA commission a lot of services for drugs and alcohol. Advised of the work undertaken on behalf of the PHA in relation to drugs and alcohol by partner agencies in particular:

- Extern;
- ASCERT;
- Lisburn/Belfast YMCA;
- Start 360;
- DAISY;
- Addiction NI; and
- Household services.

Details of PCSP funded projects provided:

- SISS;
- Extern; and,
- Dual Diagnosis.

Highlighted the need to enhance existing services and the importance of partnership working.

BDACT/ASCERT commented:

- Highlighted there are not enough services or capacity to meet existing need;
- In Belfast, trends show there is a continuing growing problem around the misuse of drugs and alcohol, this is highlighted through the number of drug/alcohol related deaths;
- Concept of poly drug misuse, there is a need to review this;
- More preventative approach to be undertaken;
- Review of existing models to help reduce drug and alcohol issues i.e. Icelandic Model;
- Priorities for BDACT:
 - o Heroin misuse;
 - o Poly drug misuse;
 - o Mental health; and,
 - o Young people.

Additionally there was a general recognition of the need for better partnership working and for good news stories to be highlighted as a means of raising awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse.

Project:

Drug and Alcohol Stewards Training

Description

This project will recruit local volunteers involved in the delivery of events where the public may consume alcohol or drugs. They will be trained in event and crowd stewarding, first aid and drug and alcohol awareness.

Successful application of the training is expected to reduce public fears and concerns about people drinking or taking drugs in public. This will be achieved through the provision of better-trained volunteers who will be able to assist others such as the police and council.

The accredited training that's set to be delivered is as detailed below:

Level 2 Award In Understanding Stewarding at Spectator Events (RQF)

In order to achieve this qualification learners are required to complete the following four mandatory units:

- How stewards prepare for spectator events
- How stewards control the entry, exit and movement of spectators at events
- How stewards monitor crowds and respond to potential crowd problems at spectator events
- How to respond to injuries, illnesses and other emergencies in active leisure and learning

This qualification is achieved by taking a 3/4 day course with extensive self-study and assessed through a learner workbook.

Courses are inclusive of tuition, examination fees and course handbooks. Free follow up supportThose participating in either the awareness-raising sessions or the accredited training will also improve their own knowledge of the dangers of drugs and alcohol misuse.

Successful application of the training will reduce public fears and concerns about people drinking or taking drugs at local organised events. This will be achieved through the provision of better-trained volunteers (Stewards) who will be able to assist others such as the police and council as well as an improved general awareness amongst those involved in planning such events.

During Year 1 (the current 2018/19 financial year) Eventsec will deliver four Level 2 Understanding Stewarding at Spectator Events aimed at qualifying up to 40 people across all for geographical areas of the city. Deliver 4 awareness Raising sessions across the four areas in Belfast. During Year 2 further training will be delivered across the city.

An evaluation of the project will be conducted in November 2019 as a means of further informing planning and delivery in order to ensure effectiveness.

Service Provider

Eventsec

Partners who can help us

- BDACT
- Belfast Trust
- PSNI

Start & End Date

1 September 2018 - 31 March 2020

Data Development Agenda

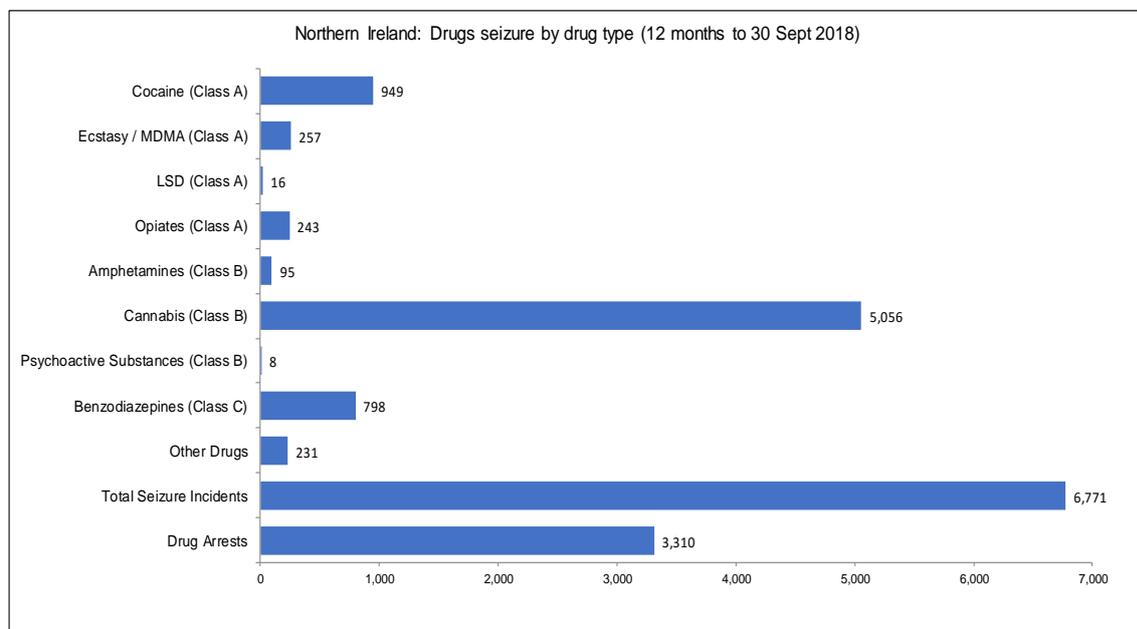
Rationale for the Project

At South Belfast DPCSP’s Public Meeting in January 2018, Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick (South Belfast, Area Commander) advised, “Most of the PSNI budget is spent on policing events, of which there can be up to 1500 per year in Belfast.”

The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey (NIOS) - Views on Alcohol and Drug Related Issues (2016) states the following:

- 43.3% agreed or strongly agreed that ‘I am concerned about alcohol related issues in my local area’.
- 42.9% agreed or strongly agreed that ‘I am concerned about drug related issues in my local area’
- The most cited primary reason given for those reporting concern about alcohol related issues in the local area was ‘underage drinking’ (59.1%), followed by ‘drinking in public places’ (33.1%). For drug related issues, 55% of respondents stated ‘drug use/abuse’ was the primary drug related issue in the local area, followed by ‘drug dealing’ (43.6%).

Across Northern Ireland, there were 6,771 drug seizure incidents in 2018 (+9% from previous year), 75% of which related to Cannabis (Class B) and a total of 3,310 drug arrests (+17%) in 2018.



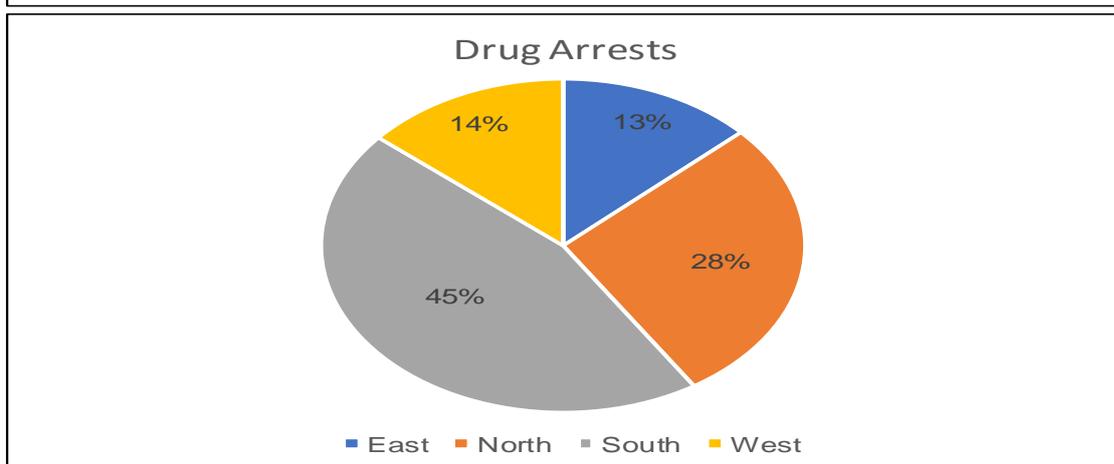
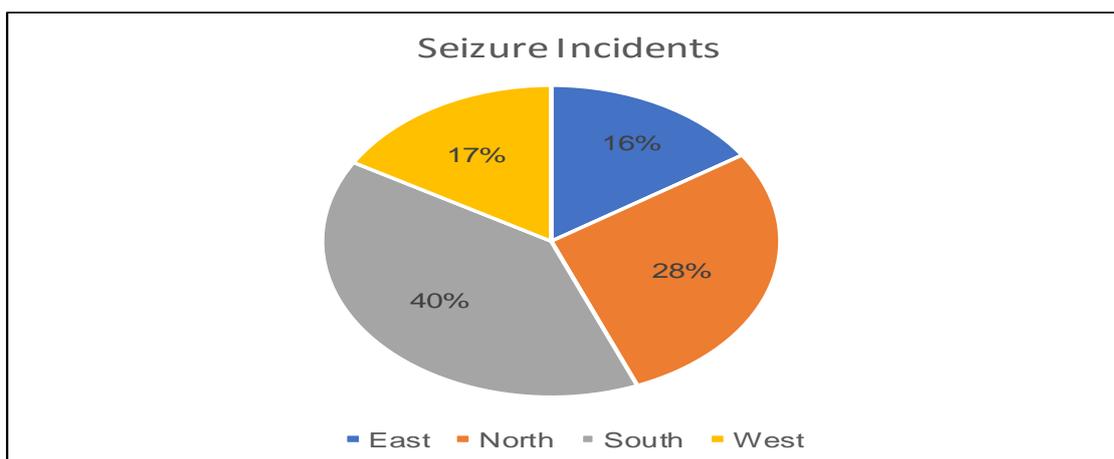
In the context of Northern Ireland overall, Belfast represents 31% of all drug seizures and 36% of all drug arrest. In Belfast, there were 2,107 drug seizure incidents in 2018 (+10% from previous year), 63% of which related to Cannabis (Class B) and a total of 1,190 drug arrests (+22%) in 2018.

Across Northern Ireland, there was a 9% increase in the number of drug seizure incidents and 17% increase in drug arrests.

Figures for Belfast also show an increase, with 10% increase in number of drug seizure incidents and 22% increase in drug arrests, particularly evident in South Belfast

	Seizure Incidents			
	12 months to 30 Sept 2017	12 months to 30 Sept 2018	change	% change
Belfast	1,908	2,107	199	10%
East	299	305	6	2%
North	538	628	90	17%
South	755	846	91	12%
West	316	325	9	3%
Northern Ireland	6,220	6,771	551	9%

	Arrests			
	12 months to 30 Sept 2017	12 months to 30 Sept 2018	change	% change
Belfast	973	1,190	217	22%
East	150	156	6	4%
North	272	331	59	22%
South	403	539	136	34%
West	148	164	16	11%
Northern Ireland	2,841	3,310	469	17%



Performance Measures

How much did we do? # participants	How well did we do it? #% partners reporting satisfaction with activities
Is anyone better off? #% participants improved their knowledge about alcohol and drugs #% partners report increased ability to engage with the wider community	

New Project Proposal: Drug and Alcohol Support Services

Description

Many people involved with the criminal justice system experience chaotic lifestyles; have alcohol and drug dependencies which often present as mental health problems.

Whilst it is acknowledged that there are significant challenges for the Health Service; the high proportion of people at risk of offending/reoffending makes it a priority for policing and community safety as well.

Belfast PCSP will commission drug and alcohol support services for clients of PSNI, YJA or Probation Board; or individuals they would be concerned will start offending or reoffending without some support. These organisations will form a project steering group to ensure the services bring policing and community safety benefit.

Members acknowledged that there are already specialised service providers for this client group; however, their capacity to deliver is limited by their current funding. It is anticipated that the Drug and Alcohol Support Services enhance current delivery contracts.

Service Provider

To be commissioned

Partners who can help us

- PSNI
- Community/voluntary sector

Start & End Date

June 2019 – March 2020

Data Development Agenda

Rationale for the Project to include Baseline Information

PBNI ACE Risk and Needs Profile

Clients starting an Order in 2016/17

Table 2 below sets out the ORS and PS Prevalence Rates for Substance Misuse and Addiction factors assessed in the Personal Domain of ACE. The table shows that almost three in five of the new starts assessed were deemed to have a small, medium or large offending related problem in relation to alcohol (ORS Prevalence Rate=58%). Almost half were deemed to have a Drugs Offending Related Problem (ORS Prevalence Rate=48%).

Taken together, 77% of new starts assessed were deemed to have either an Alcohol or Drugs Offending Related Problem.

Table 2: ACE Section B: Personal Domain, Substance Misuse & Addiction - ORS and PS Profile

– Clients starting an order in 2016/17 N=2,756 (90% of 2016/17 New Starts)	ORS Prevalence Rate (% S, M or L)	PS Prevalence Rate (% S, M or L)
Alcohol	58%	59%
Drugs	48%	52%
Gambling	2%	3%
Other*	1%	1%
Glue/ solvents**	5%	4%
Other Habit or Obsessive Behaviour**	4%	4%

National Drug Treatment Monitoring System 2017/18

96% of adults in a secure setting were accessing treatment for drugs

46% of adults in a secure setting were accessing treatment for alcohol

Performance Measures

How much did we do?

clients referred
interventions per client

How well did we do it?

Stakeholders indicate satisfaction with the project at 6 month review

Is anyone better off?

participants with improved personal circumstances