

HIPS/23/03 – Scotland’s First Managed Alcohol Programme: Evaluating The Impact To Inform Future Service Delivery And Research

People experiencing homelessness and alcohol dependence often face short- and long-term harms. Those unable to stop drinking would benefit from support to reduce these harms. Managed Alcohol Programmes (MAPs) are residential harm reduction programmes designed for this group which work well in other countries. The first MAP in Scotland opened in 2021. There is a need for a high-quality evaluation of this new MAP to understand any benefits and challenges and generate learnings for other organisations in the future. Our study will involve: a literature review; and a comparison of data on alcohol use and health outcomes for 10 MAP residents and 10 people using other services. We will also undertake detailed interviews with 10 MAP residents, 10 MAP staff to understand their views and experiences. As well we will interview 10 other stakeholders (such as healthcare professionals, third sector organisations and police), and 10 local people. To make sure the study is relevant to participants and other local, national, and international stakeholders, we will set up an advisory group, including people with lived experience of alcohol dependence and homelessness, healthcare professionals, service staff, and those involved in MAPs internationally. The advisory group will support recruitment and dissemination activities, and comment on findings. A Community of Practice (CoP) will provide space for people interested in MAPs to access and share information, guidance, and support. Findings from the study will be fed back to the current MAP, the CoP and other interested parties, including researchers, through briefings, presentations, publications and blogs.