

Department of Education and Skills

2018 Drugs Related Expenditure

As outlined in the EMCDDA (*European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction*) return made earlier this year, the Department of Education and Skill's drug related expenditure was €0.745million relating to the following two projects:

Drugs Court – Education Support (€0.36m)

City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETB) is provided with the funding allocation (*via SOLAS*) to support the ***Drug Treatment Court (DTC) Programme***. It is aimed at people with drug addiction problems who come before the District Court on minor criminal charges linked to their drug addiction and who plead guilty or have been convicted of the charge(s).

It is a court-supervised treatment programme to help drug dependent offenders to address their addictions and offending behaviours. There is a short assessment phase and those chosen to participate are individuals aged over 17 years, living in Dublin and who are serious about wishing to tackle their drug habit and undergo treatment.

Once on the programme, participants are provided with help and support in dealing with the challenge of tackling their addiction.

At the induction stage potential participants are assessed to determine their suitability for the programme. For all participants, accessing treatment is essential. A participant can opt to try to detoxify in the community or in hospital or go drug free, or take methadone maintenance or methadone reduction. The participant will come to an agreement about their treatment with the team and will attend counselling and group work.

As well as the drug treatment, the participant will be required to take part in educational and/or other programmes within the community to give him/her new skills or improve skills he/she may already have. Participants must abstain from their main drug of choice upon admission. As they pass through the programme, further testing is carried out for other drugs.

For each participant a *Personal Progression Credits Chart* is developed which charts progression enabling overall feedback on an incremental basis.

The programme consists of 3 phases – bronze, silver and gold. Decisions on the participants' success at each phase is made by the judge based on information provided by the DTC team. Depending on individual needs and motivation, the programme can last at least a year but participants must make sufficient progress to ensure that they move through the phases in less than 12 months.

The programme includes:

- Adult Guidance Counselling for each client.
- A specialised educational programme specific to the Drug Treatment Court which includes accreditation in literacy, numeracy, computers, health and fitness, art, food and nutrition, work preparation, personal effectiveness.
- A Skills Programme which includes nutrition and health, time management, health and fitness, communication skills, stress management, meditation, outdoor pursuits, peer support and addiction awareness.
- Advice placement and ongoing liaison/support to clients when referred to other education, training or work placements.
- Evaluation and review of progress of every client to the Drug Treatment Court.

Funding of projects in Local Drug s Task Force Areas (€0.384m)

Funding is also provided by the Department of Education and Skills to support six Local Drug Task Force projects. The projects which are set out in the table below include supports to retention in education for young persons who are at risk of not doing so, alternative provision for early school leavers, educational and therapeutic programmes for individual s who are in recovery and supports in the delivery of the Social and Personal Health Education curriculum in schools.

The aim of the projects overall is to encourage young persons to make healthy decisions and not to engage in drug taking.

Project Name	Purpose	Administ ered by	2018 Allocation
Killinarden Drug Primary Prevention, Tallaght	supports the delivery of the substance use module of the Social, Personal and Health Education curriculum in schools	Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB)	34,560
Drug Education and Training, Dun Laoghaire	supports delivery of substance use module of the SPHE curriculum in schools	DDLETB	5,365
Blanchardstown Early School Leavers Project	an alternative programme for early school leavers	DDLETB	76,615
Crinan Youth Project (Salesian Youth Enterprises), Seán McDermott Street	programmes for youths in rehabilitation who affected by, or in recovery from, addiction	City of Dublin Youth Services Board (CDYSB) (a committee of CDETb)	52,040
Familibase, Ballyfermot	aims to keep young persons in education by supporting those at risk and their families	DES	67,400
Rehabilitation and Support Programme (RASP), Malahide Road Industrial Estate	provides educational and therapeutic programmes for adults in rehabilitation who are in recovery from addiction	DES	148,820

Review

The Department is currently conducting a review of the funding of these projects. On completion, the Department will share a copy of the report and recommendations arising with the Department of Health and the RHSR National Oversight Committee.

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5 December, 2019