

Needs and Service Evaluation of the South East Regional Drugs Task Force

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Rationale for Evaluation and Appointment of Evaluation Team

- The South East Regional Drugs Task Force (SERDTF) decided in late 2009 to commission an external expert evaluation of all 31 projects funded by the Office of the Minister for Drugs through the SERDTF.
- It was agreed that the evaluations main aims would be to 1) examine the efficiencies and effectiveness of each project 2) to rank each project against this criteria 3) to use this ranking/scoring outcome to determine the priority of future funding 4) to examine the extent of the drugs issue in the South East and outline a roadmap for the development of services in the future
- After a tendering process, the SERDTF appointed Professor Catherine Comiskey of Trinity College Dublin, a leading national and international authority on measuring the effectiveness of drug and addiction related responses. Professor Comiskey was assisted by a team of experienced and qualified experts in this area. The evaluation was completed in May 2010 and presented to the SERDTF which accepted all of the findings and recommendations in the evaluation.

Change in the size of the SERDTF Population from 2002 to 2006

SERDTF Area	Persons 2002	Persons 2006	Persons Aged 15-64 2006	Actual Change 2002-2006	Percentage Change 2002-2006
Carlow	46,014	50,349	34,481	4,335	9.4%
Kilkenny	80,339	87,558	58,713	7,219	9.0%
Wexford	116,596	131,749	87,187	15,153	13.0%
South Tipp.	79,121	83,221	55,042	4,100	5.2%
Waterford	101,546	107,961	72,370	6,415	6.3%
Total in SERDTF			307,793		
State	3,917,203	4,239,848		322,645	8.2%

Estimate of Numbers Using Any Illegal Drug

SERDTF County	Number of Persons Aged 15-64 in 2006	Lower Estimate of Illegal Drug Use in 2006	Point Estimate of Illegal Drug Use in 2006	Upper Estimate of Illegal Drug Use in 2006
Carlow	34,481	1,448	2,724	4,551
Kilkenny	58,713	2,466	4,638	7,750
Wexford	87,187	3,662	6,888	11,509
South Tipp.	55,042	2,312	4,348	7,266
Waterford	72,370	3,040	5,717	9,553
Total in SERDTF	307,793	12,927	24,316	40,629

Estimate of Numbers Using Heroin in 2006

SERDTF County	Number of Persons Aged 15-64 in 2006	Point Estimate of Heroin Use in 2006
Carlow	34,481	100
Kilkenny	58,713	170
Wexford	87,187	253
South Tipp.	55,042	160
Waterford	72,370	210
Total in SERDTF	307,793	893

Projects in SERDTF Ranked by effectiveness and efficiency

Note: There were a total of 31 projects ranked

Project	Rank
Cornmarket Project Wexford	1
Community Based Drugs Initiative Waterford	2
Cityside Drugs Initiative Waterford	3
Frontline Project Waterford	4
Community Based Drugs Initiative Carlow	5
Ossory Youth Programme Kilkenny	6
Drugs Outreach South Tipperary	7
Drugs Outreach Carlow/Kilkenny	8
Family Support Worker for Region	9
Outreach Worker Waterford	10
Substance Misuse Team South Tipperary	11
Ceim Eile – Ais Eiri Waterford	12
Outreach Worker FDYS Wexford	13
St. Francis Farm Merchants Quay Carlow	14
Ais Eiri Waterford and South Tipperary	15
Aislinn Centre Therapies	16