



**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Integration Joint Board

**MEETING DATE:** 23 May 2024

**BY:** Chair of Midlothian and East Lothian Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP)

**SUBJECT:** MELDAP Finance and Delivery Report

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide an overview of MELDAP, including a financial summary and performance against key Scottish Government priorities.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The IJB is asked to note the financial information in Table 1.
- 2.2 The IJB is asked to recognise the performance of MELDAP and its services in meeting Scottish Government Access and Medication Assisted Treatment [MAT] Standards.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

### **Aims & Objectives**

- 3.1 MELDAP's primary aim is to co-ordinate the design, commissioning and delivery of alcohol and drug services across East Lothian and Midlothian, to ensure that these services are needs led, recovery focused, based on evidence of what makes a difference and are delivered in an effective, efficient way. A key component in the achievement of this aim will be that services are designed around the needs of people who use and need our services, and their families who play an integral part in their design and evaluation.
- 3.2 MELDAP also aims to:
- Reduce the harm to individuals and promote recovery from substance use.
  - Protect children and young people from the effects of parental substance use.

- Promote early intervention to prevent the harmful use of alcohol and drugs.
- Develop high quality services responsive to the changing needs of people who use our services.
- Challenge the stigma and discrimination people who use substances experience.

### Financial Overview

3.3 Funding for MELDAP is divided into two sections: core funding and additional investments for priority areas. Core funding consists of recurring allocations from the NHS, East Lothian Council, and the Scottish Government. Additional investments are fixed-term allocations from the Scottish Government aimed at addressing priority areas outlined in the National Drugs Mission. These priority areas include:

- Whole Family Approaches
- Drugs Mission
- Residential Care
- Outreach and Near Fatal Overdose
- MAT Implementation

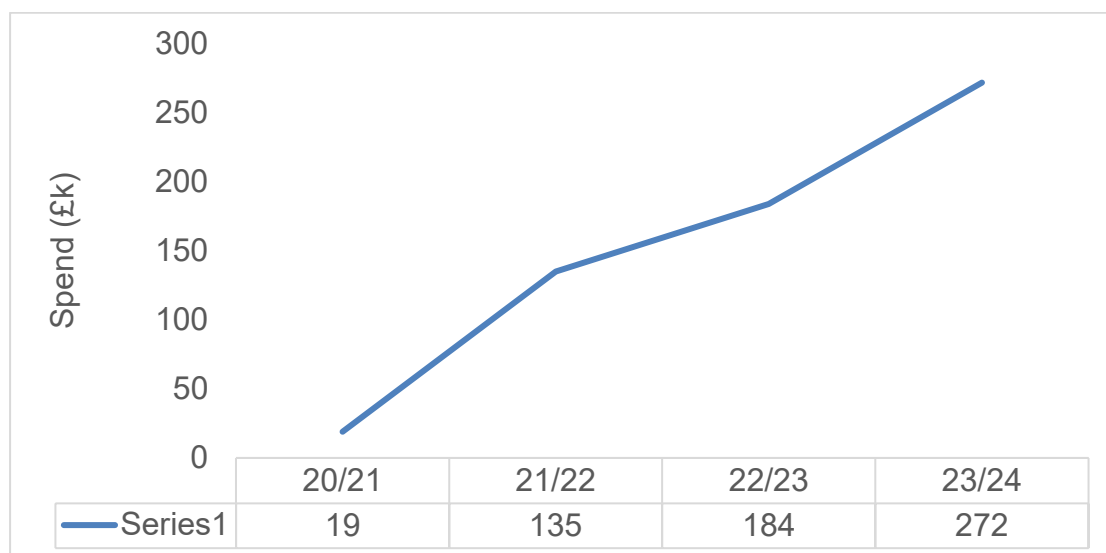
3.4 The table below shows the detail for each of the allocations:

| Type                             | Value (£k)   | Comments          |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Core                             | 1,639        | Recurring Funding |
| Whole Family Approach            | 76           | Ends April 2026   |
| Drugs Mission                    | 108          | Ends April 2026   |
| Residential Care                 | 109          | Ends April 2026   |
| Stabilisation                    | 55           | Ends April 2026   |
| Lived & Living Experience        | 11           | Ends April 2026   |
| Outreach and Near Fatal Overdose | 132          | Ends April 2026   |
| MAT Implementation               | 193          | Ends April 2026   |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>2,323</b> |                   |

3.5 MELDAP commissions services from a range of providers to ensure effective and quality care is provided. A high-level overview of the investment profiles is shown below:

| Organisation | Value (£k)   | Share (%)   |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| NHS          | 1,280        | 55%         |
| Social Care  | 301          | 13%         |
| Third Sector | 742          | 32%         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2,323</b> | <b>100%</b> |

- 3.6 MELDAP produce a balanced plan each year and report spend through the overarching MELDAP Strategic Group and local financial governance groups.
- 3.7 As the MELDAP funding is earmarked it is not subject to the requirement to produce financial recovery plans however given the current financial climate there is a further focus on reviewing all investments to ensure best value.
- 3.8 One of the biggest financial risks associated to drug treatment services is the rollout out of Buprenorphine.
- 3.9 In October 2021 the Scottish Government instructed that areas should support a switch from current opiate substitution therapy (OST) formulations to Buprenorphine. The costs of Buprenorphine are on average £2.2k per patient more expensive than oral Methadone/oral Buprenorphine. There has been no additional funding allocated to cover the rollout which has resulted in a financial pressure to NHS Lothian due to the uptake and cost of the medicine. Below shows the Buprenorphine spend increase year on year:



**Delivery and Outcomes** (*Implementation of the National Medication Assisted Treatment [MAT] Standards and other work*)

- 3.10 The 10 MAT standards were introduced in 2020 and structured around the principles of Access, Choice, and Support. A key aim of the standards is to place people at the centre of our services and the importance of treating individuals with dignity and respect, being non-judgemental in all our approaches. This approach reflects the human rights-based approach set out in Rights, Respect and Recovery: Alcohol and Drugs Treatment Strategy (2018) and is closely aligned to the recommendations in the final 2022 report by the Scottish Drugs Deaths Taskforce: Changing Lives.
- 3.11 In June 2023, following submission of process, numerical and experiential evidence to the MAT Implementation Support Team [MIST]

from the Scottish Government, MELDAP and its services were awarded a RAG status of provisional Green for MAT standards 1 to 5.

- 3.12 MELDAP and its services submitted process, numerical and experiential evidence to MIST in mid-April 2024 in relation to the assessment of sustained performance of MAT standards 1 to 5 and initial implementation of MAT Standards 6-10, which are to be fully implemented by April 2025.
- 3.13 Whilst indications are that MELDAP and its services have met and exceeded Scottish Government expectations, we will be formally advised of final Red, Amber, Green [RAG] assessment in June 2024.
- 3.14 MELDAP services in East Lothian consistently meet the Access Standard set by the Scottish Government. This requires that 90% of people are seen [referral to treatment] within 3 weeks and 100% within 5 weeks. Performance for Q4 of 2023/24 is 100% within 3 weeks.
- 3.15 National research indicates that being in service is a protective factor in relation to reducing the risk of near fatal/fatal overdose and alcohol specific illness and death. To this end, over the last few years MELDAP, has introduced a direct support Contact Service provided through a 3<sup>rd</sup> sector provider. This ensures that people can call and receive immediate advice, information and support into treatment, psycho-social assistance, recovery support and other service provision. Based on comments from people and families we are also currently piloting an out of hours Contact service extension in both East Lothian and Midlothian.
- 3.16 MELDAP has supported The Ridge in Dunbar to set up Recovery Café to augment similar provisions provided by Starfish in Musselburgh and Friday Friends in Haddington. During the winter months Starfish offered a warm space and free hot drinks to the community.
- 3.17 In 2023/24, MELDAP also assisted and funded the development of “Low Threshold” Cafés in Prestonpans and Tranent with the specific remit of assisting those who are not yet accessing treatment and support services to engage with this type of service provision.

#### **4 ENGAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The MELDAP Strategic Group [which includes representatives from the HSCP, Police and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector] has oversight and responsibility for the financial spend. MELDAP are currently working on potential measures to sustain a balanced budget for 2025/26.
- 4.2 A further paper is to be taken to the MELDAP Strategic Group setting out options and recommendations for action. If this is agreed by the Strategic group, MELDAP will move forward with the work in full collaboration with partners.

## **5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 No policy implications are noted.

## **6. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

## **7. DIRECTIONS**

- 7.1 *East Lothian Integration Joint Board Direction D15k - NHS Lothian / East Lothian Council Substance Misuse Services NHS Lothian and East Lothian Council are directed to work collaboratively with Midlothian and East Lothian Drug and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP) and third sector providers and to further develop and improve the multi-agency approach in relation to access to alcohol and drug support services. Development should be in accordance with statutory / regulatory requirements where applicable and aiming to meet both local and national targets, including MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) Standards. (Revised October 2023)*
- 7.2 Specifically, the budget set by MELDAP, secures our capacity to continue to deliver the MAT Standards, the 3 week [referral to treatment] access to treatment standard amongst other local and national priorities which will be described in the MELDAP Delivery Plan 2024-27.
- 7.3 We have also taken steps to further develop; and improve multi-disciplinary work as the ELHSCP Substance Use Service acts in partnership to provide treatment and psychosocial support. In April of this year, ELHSCP also implemented the creation of a co-located premises with both Mental Health services and Drugs and/or Alcohol Services operating from the Esk Centre in Musselburgh. This also meets some requirements under MAT Standard 9.

## **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Financial – Financial Information is noted in the tables in Section 3.
- 8.2 Personnel – None
- 8.3 Other – None

## **9 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 There are no background papers.

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| <b>DATE</b>          | 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024   |