

Charity Name: Dunlewey Addiction Services Ltd
Reporting Period: 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

Charitable Purposes and Public Benefit

Dunlewey Addiction Services Ltd provides free, confidential counselling, early intervention, training, aftercare, and recovery support services for individuals and families affected by substance misuse and problem gambling. Services are delivered across multiple Health and Social Care Trust areas in Northern Ireland, with the Problem Gambling Service operating on an all-Ireland basis.

The charity's purposes are:

- The relief of persons suffering from alcohol, solvent, or drug dependency
- The advancement of education
- The protection of health

In pursuing these purposes, the Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. The charity delivers clear public benefit through improved mental health and wellbeing, reduced harm from substance misuse and gambling, increased recovery stability, and enhanced family functioning.

There is no private benefit arising from the charity's activities and no identifiable harm associated with the delivery of its services

Who the Charity Helps

The charity's beneficiaries are individuals and families affected directly or indirectly by:

- Alcohol and drug dependency
- Polydrug use
- Problem gambling

Beneficiaries include adults, young people aged 11–25, and concerned family members. Services are accessible to people regardless of gender, background, or socioeconomic status, with particular efforts made to reach vulnerable, marginalised, and rural populations.

Main Activities Undertaken to Further Charitable Purposes

Adult Counselling Services

During the reporting period, 245 individuals accessed adult counselling services within the Belfast HSCT area. A total of 1,692 sessions were offered, with 1,214 sessions completed. The service provided structured, time-limited counselling with flexibility to extend where clinically appropriate. Cocaine and alcohol remained the most commonly presented substances, with emerging trends in THC, gas, and polydrug use, particularly among younger adults.

Concerned relatives continued to access the service, with a significant increase in family-focused support reflecting improved referral pathways and targeted service development.

Step 2 Early Intervention Services (Adults)

The Step 2 Early Intervention Service supported 441 clients during the year, delivering 4,562 sessions. The service focuses on reducing harm and preventing escalation of substance misuse through timely, community-based intervention. Alcohol remained the primary substance of concern, frequently alongside other substances.

The service continued to operate a hybrid delivery model, offering face-to-face, telephone, and online support based on service user choice.

Partnership Step 2 Service – Southern HSCT

Dunlewey Addiction Services acted as lead partner in a multi-agency Step 2 Partnership alongside Addiction NI, Ascertainment, and Extern. The partnership received 683 referrals, representing significant growth and increased recognition across the Southern Trust area. The service emphasised collaborative care planning, advocacy, and post-treatment recovery support.

Young People's Services (Ages 11–25)

Young people's services delivered one-to-one, group work, and family support interventions to address mild to moderate substance misuse and associated mental health concerns. During the year, 297 young people received support, with increasing concerns identified around vaping, THC/Spice use, anxiety, and low mood.

Group work focused on mental wellbeing, resilience, self-esteem, and healthy coping strategies, delivered in partnership with schools, youth services, and community organisations.

Family Support Services

Family members affected by substance misuse accessed one-to-one counselling, structured interventions, psychoeducation, and signposting. The service supported both engaged families and those seeking anonymous advice, recognising the wider impact of addiction on family systems.

Problem Gambling Service (Nationwide)

The Problem Gambling Service delivered nationwide support through a helpline and counselling provision. During the year, over 4,000 helpline calls were received, and 279 individuals accessed counselling. Online gambling and emerging behaviours such as crypto and day trading were increasingly reported, particularly among younger males, while tailored support groups for women continued to expand.

Recovery and Aftercare – New ARCH Programme

The New ARCH programme provided structured recovery support through group-based activities, mentoring, and wellbeing interventions. Referrals increased significantly compared to the previous year, 163 referrals demonstrating ongoing demand for post-treatment recovery support. The programme also facilitated volunteering and peer support pathways.

Training and Development

Dunlewey offers both funded and bespoke training both internally and externally. In the period of 2024 to 2025, the training and development service has expanded with permanent staff member and sessional trainers on board.

Through 2024-2025 training has been developed and facilitated in many areas.

- Staff sector training for young people services
- Essential helpline skills training
- Link life training
- Dependency recovery training
- Gambling awareness and harm reduction
- Gambling awareness training to bookmaker staff

There has been a 200% increase in training with a sustainability plan to develop further in 2025-2026.

Feedback from training has been 100% positive with an emphasis on how interactive and practical it is. Allowing real life scenarios to be explored. The content focuses on practical skills and the cascading of information through communities

Achievements and Performance

Key achievements during the reporting period include:

- Increased access to early intervention and recovery services
- Growth in family and concerned relative engagement
- Expansion of partnership working across Trust areas
- Development of gender-specific and recovery-focused supports
- Positive service user feedback across all services

Service evaluations consistently demonstrated high satisfaction levels, with the majority of service users reporting improved wellbeing, coping skills, and recovery stability.

Communications

A range of communication platforms including website, social media, local newspapers enabled us to circulate key information regarding our services.

We also attend networking opportunities to enable staff to circulate key information about our services.

We actively promoted, participated in and contributed to a range of public consultations, events and workshops and actively engaged with stakeholders from key statutory agencies.

Partnership Working.

We have maintained excellent working relationships with our partner agencies.

Financial Review and Sustainability

The charity received funding from a range of statutory and grant-making bodies, including Health and Social Care Trusts, the Public Health Agency, local councils, the National Lottery, and charitable trusts.

A reserves policy is in place and reviewed annually. The Trustees aim to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to approximately six months of operational expenditure to ensure financial stability and continuity of services.

Governance and Risk Management

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees who meet regularly and provide strategic oversight. Trustees ensure appropriate financial controls, safeguarding procedures, and risk management systems are in place. The charity maintains strong partnership relationships and adheres to ethical frameworks, including BACP principles.

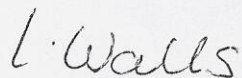
Plans for the Future

The charity will continue to embed trauma-informed approaches across all services and is progressing towards BACP organisational accreditation. Plans include further external evaluation, continued workforce development, and diversification of funding to ensure long-term sustainability.

Trustee Declaration

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when exercising their powers and duties.

This report was approved by the Board on 20th January 2025 and thereafter signed on its behalf by:



Lauren Walls
Chairperson Dunlewey Addition Services
Date: 20th January 2026