
Family Support Policy

Turas Training

Approval date: September 2017

Revision date: March 2019

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. TURAS recognise that drug use rarely affects only the individual, but also the individual's family. The negative effects on a family can be in relation to physical and psychological health; finance and employment; social life; and family relationships. TURAS is committed to ensuring that families living with drug use receive effective supports¹.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. To provide guidelines for the support of families living with drug use, including referrals for one to one and work and in a group setting.

3. Scope

- 3.1. This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and locum workers within TURAS. It includes supports to all family members: parents, partners, siblings and children.

4. Statement of Approach

- 4.1. TURAS supports a peer led model of family support rooted in a community development ethos.²
- 4.2. The specific target group is: families within a geographical region etc.

5. Principles

- 5.1. TURAS recognises that drug use may affect the whole family and therefore that the whole family may need support.
- 5.2. Family needs are best met when family members are given opportunities to identify their own needs and their own solutions.
- 5.3. All work with families will be conducted in a non-judgemental manner that facilitates empowerment, inclusion and participation.
- 5.4. The needs of families may be met through a broad range of services that may include referrals for counselling, one to one support and family support groups.
- 5.5. Family support prioritises self-care and personal development.
- 5.6. An effective approach to meeting the needs of children affected by a drug using family member must be consistent with statutory guidance and recognised good practice, and give appropriate priority to the needs and wishes of children, their parents and other family members.

6. Glossary of Terms and Definitions

- 6.1.1. The target group - all members of the family, fathers, mothers, siblings, grandparents?

7. Confidentiality / Disclosure:

- 7.1. Confidentiality may be extended when a service user discloses that:
 - 7.1.1. They have perpetrated sexual / physical abuse on another person
 - 7.1.2. They intend to perpetrate sexual / physical abuse on another person
 - 7.1.3. Any other issues in relation to Child Protection, as described in Children First
 - 7.1.4. They have committed a criminal act (Criminal Law Act, 1997)
 - 7.1.5. They intend to commit a criminal act (Criminal Law Act, 1997)
 - 7.1.6. They have self-harmed / attempted suicide and at risk of causing harm to self
 - 7.1.7. They intend to self-harm / attempt suicide

8. One-to-One Supports

- 8.1. Referrals for one to one support is available for family members of drug users who would value additional support or information.
 - 8.2. Individuals may also be referred to counselling services or more specialised services which may involve such interventions as; intensive family-based therapy, behavioural couples therapy, multidimensional Family therapy etc.
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9. External Supports

9.1. The organisation will identify clear referral processes for needs that individuals who require further support. Individuals referred to these services should be supported in their referral. This includes referral information on:

- 9.1.1. Domestic violence
- 9.1.2. Drug related debt
- 9.1.3. Parenting classes
- 9.1.4. Counselling
- 9.1.5. Family Law
- 9.1.6. Family mediation
- 9.1.7. Guardianship of children
- 9.1.8. Local authority housing
- 9.1.9. Suicide and self harm
- 9.1.10. Dealing with intimidation
- 9.1.11. Accessing benefits
- 9.1.12. Respite
- 9.1.13. National or Local Family Support networks