Parents misusing drugs and alcohol can jeopardise child and family well-being and can undermine the potential of families to meet children's developmental, health and welfare needs. Recognising these challenges, the NACD, HSE and Alcohol Action Ireland come together in this seminar to consider how policy and services can be more effective in supporting children in families where there are drug and alcohol problems. The seminar aims to:

A one day seminar

A Family Affair?
Supporting children living with parental substance misuse

Tuesday 18th October 2011, 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Cusack Suite, Croke Park Conference Centre,
Croke Park, Dublin 3.
Seminar objectives

Parents misusing drugs and alcohol can jeopardise child and family well-being and can undermine the potential of families to meet children's developmental, health and welfare needs. Recognising these challenges, the NACD, HSE and Alcohol Action Ireland come together in this seminar to consider how policy and services can be more effective in supporting children in families where there are drug and alcohol problems. The seminar aims to:

- strengthen knowledge and understanding on how parental drug and alcohol misuse impacts on children's development, health and welfare
- examine the shared responsibility of adult services towards children affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse and of children's services towards parents who are misusing drugs and/or alcohol
- learn about what works well in the design and delivery of services to children and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse
- consider how public policy on child development, health and welfare and adult drug and alcohol misuse can strengthen the focus on early and crisis intervention to reduce the harmful impact on children of parental substance misuse.

The event will launch the NACD literature review *Parental Substance Misuse: Addressing its impact on Children* completed by NACD Senior Researcher, Dr. Justine Horgan.

Who should attend?

The seminar is relevant to policy makers and service providers in statutory and community and voluntary sectors concerned with:

- Substance misuse treatment and rehabilitation
- Children and young people including child welfare and protection
- Community development
- Counselling services
- Domestic violence
- Education
- Family supports
- Health
- Psychological services
- Psychiatry services
- Probation service
- Social inclusion

This seminar is co-hosted by the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD), Alcohol Action Ireland and HSE Social Inclusion.

The NACD advises the Government on problem drug use in Ireland in relation to prevalence, prevention consequences and treatment based on the analysis and interpretation of research findings. www.nacd.ie

Alcohol Action Ireland is the national charity for alcohol-related issues. It works to create awareness of alcohol-related harm and reduce the damage caused by alcohol through campaigning, research and advocacy. www.alcoholireland.ie. Alcohol Action Ireland also runs www.drinkhelp.ie, an on-line guide to alcohol services in Ireland searchable by location and age of person looking for help.

The HSE Social Inclusion Department works to reduce the impact of health inequalities by addressing the needs of socially excluded groups through a comprehensive, intersectoral approach and involvement in a range of statutory led and associated community and voluntary sector initiatives. www.hse.ie
Seminar programme

Session 1: Strengthening knowledge and understanding on how parental drug and alcohol misuse impacts on children’s development, health and welfare

10.00 Welcoming remarks  
Dr. Des Corrigan, Chairperson, National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD)

10.10 Opening address  
Róisín Shortall TD, Minister of State with Responsibility for Primary Care

10.30 Parental Substance Misuse: Addressing its impact on Children  
Key messages and recommendations from a review of the literature.  
Dr. Justine Horgan, Senior Researcher, NACD

11.00 Roundtable discussions  
Discussion prompts:  
- How do the literature review findings reflect your experience?  
- Share what your organisation does to support children living with parental drug and alcohol misuse  
- Explore challenges in supporting children experiencing parental substance misuse in context of adult drug and alcohol services and wider health and social services  
Each roundtable will be hosted by a facilitator.

12.00 Prioritising children in policy and practice  
Speaker: Norah Gibbons, Chairperson Alcohol Action Ireland and Director of Advocacy and Central Services, Barnardos

12.15 Lunch

Session 2: Responding to the needs of children living with parental drug and alcohol misuse – four parallel workshops – please indicate your preference on the seminar booking form

1.30 Workshop A: Learning from service responses: Ballyfermot STAR.  
Réalt Beag initiative of the Ballyfermot STAR Child and Family Centre is an early learning centre for children that support parenting skills within families.  
Presenter: Sunniva Finlay, Organisation Manager, Ballyfermot STAR

This initiative is based on the internationally recognised and evidence-based parenting and family skills initiative, the Strengthening Families Programme.  
Presenter: Donna Butler, Programme Manager, Families Matter, Programme, NWAF

Workshop C: Building knowledge and skills for better outcomes for children – the role of Children First  
Presenter: Theresa Barnett, Training and Development Office – Children First, HSE and Mary Egan, Principal Social Worker, Training and Development Officer, HSE

Workshop D: Hidden Harm Action Plan, a partnership approach for better outcomes for children living with parental drug and alcohol misuse  
Presenter: Davis Turkington, Senior Officer, Health and Social Wellbeing Improvement, Public Health Agency, NI

Session 3: Children living with parental drug and alcohol misuse – a shared policy responsibility

2.45 Reflections on issues arising from seminar proceedings  
Chair: Paul Barron, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health  
Speaker: Dr. Marguerite Woods, Lecturer in Social Studies, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin

3.00 Panel responses and open forum  
Dr. Tony Holohan, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Chairman of National Substance Misuse Strategy Group  
Phil Garland, Assistant National Director, Children and Families Social Services, HSE  
Dr. Marguerite Woods, Lecturer in Social Studies, School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin

3.30 Closing remarks  
Frances Fitzgerald TD, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs

3.45 Evaluation and close
Getting to Croke Park Conference Centre,
St. James’ Avenue, off Clonliffe Road, Drumcondra.

Walking/Cycling:
Croke Park is about a 15 minute walk from Dublin City Centre. Access to the seminar venue is via St. James’ Avenue (off Clonliffe Road). On Clonliffe Road, follow the sign to the GAA Museum.

Dublin Bus:
From Lower Abbey Street, buses 33, 41, 41b, 41c will take you close to Croke Park. Ask for Drumcondra Train Station stop.

Iarnród Éireann:
Trains that stop at Drumcondra and Connolly Railway stations service Croke Park. Drumcondra Train Station is less than a 5 minute walk from Croke Park and Connolly Station is about 10/15 mins walk.

Dart and Luas:
Trains that stop at Connolly Station or Bus Áras service Croke Park, which is about 10/15 minute walk.

Car Parking:
Please use the St. James’ Avenue (off Clonliffe Road) entrance to Croke Park.

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Tel. 01 878 0610  info@alcoholactionireland.ie

HSE Social Inclusion, Mill Lane, Palmerstown, Dublin 20
Tel. 01 620 1703  patrick.costello1@hse.ie