



T: 0131-244 4000
E: Scottish.ministers@gov.scot

23 June 2022

Residential Rehabilitation: A REPORT ON “INTERVIEWS WITH PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE OF ACCESSING RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION”

Dear Convener,

I am writing to inform Parliament that The Scottish Government in response to the Residential Rehabilitation Development Working Group’s (RRDWG) recommendation that “The Scottish Government and Alcohol and Drug Partnerships should work together to scope and compare current referral pathways, including referral criteria and inclusions/exclusions” we have published a report titled “Interviews with People with Lived Experience of Accessing Residential Rehabilitation”.

People noted a number of aspects of residential rehabilitation which they found beneficial. These included the highly-structured nature of daily routines; the removal from their environment; learning about the nature of addiction; their needs being treated holistically; and the deep relationships formed with staff and peers, particularly those with lived experience.

The report details a range of substance use outcomes following residential rehabilitation, with some having achieved abstinence after one placement and others reporting up to four placements in residential rehabilitation. Importantly, those who had returned to problem substance use following their placement highlighted that the strategies and tools which they had learnt during their rehab placement had been essential in helping them to quickly reduce and abstain from use.

Participants did however disclose substantial challenges in terms of accessing statutory or third-sector funding and referrals to residential rehabilitation placements, with knowledge of rehab poor among both individuals and potential referrers. It should be noted however that these experiences are before the £100m investment in Residential Rehabilitation over the course of this parliament and the significant ongoing work relating to Pathways.

I hope this update has been helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Constance', written over a horizontal line.

ANGELA CONSTANCE
Minister for Drugs Policy