September 2024

Sheffield Inclusive Recovery City

2023-24 Report

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A Manifesto for a City Where Recovery Belongs to Everyone

Our Vision

Sheffield is a city where recovery from drugs (including prescription drugs) and alcohol is visible, valued, and inclusive. Where every person, community, and institution plays a part in creating the conditions for people to flourish.
We imagine Sheffield as a national example of having woven recovery into the everyday life of the city: in our workplaces, neighbourhoods, schools, public spaces, and cultural life.

Our Mission

Our mission is to change perceptions of addiction, drugs (including prescription drugs) and alcohol. We believe that recovery is everyone's business. Sheffield Inclusive Recovery Cities is a collective initiative that brings together people in recovery, families, community organisations, public services, and civic institutions to build a city-wide recovery ecosystem.

Recovery is not just a personal journey or the sole responsibility of the individual, but also of wider society, and Inclusive Recovery Cities provides opportunities for both. Through partnership, lived experience leadership, and community-led action, we are working to embed recovery into the fabric of city life to create the conditions for healing, dignity, justice, and long-term flourishing.

Our Values

- **Shared Responsibility**

Recovery is not the work of a few; it belongs to all of us. Every person and every institution has a role to play in building a recovery-friendly city.

- **Lived Experience Leadership**

We centre the wisdom, voices, and leadership of people in recovery in shaping decisions, spaces, and services.

- **Inclusion and Equity**

We actively challenge stigma and dismantle structural barriers to ensure recovery is possible for everyone, especially those from minoritised or marginalised communities.

- **Relational Recovery**

We recognise that recovery happens through relationships, trust, belonging, and mutual care.

- **Place-Based Transformation**

We build recovery into the spaces and systems of city life from housing, education, arts, employment, and public services, so that recovery can be sustained everywhere.

Join Us

We invite all who live, work, care, and create in Sheffield to join this movement. Recovery is a community asset, a cultural force, and a shared civic future.

Together, we can build a Sheffield where everyone has the opportunity not just to survive, but to thrive.

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Background

The concept of Inclusive Cities was initially piloted in Ghent in 2022. Since its launch, Ghent has actively incorporated the idea of "Inclusive Cities" into its drug policy plan for the period 2020-2025.

The central objectives of "Inclusive Cities" consist of two key components:

1. **Making Recovery Visible and Celebrating It:** This involves recognizing and celebrating the journey of recovery. It's about acknowledging the resilience and progress of individuals overcoming addiction.
2. **Connecting Relevant Actors:** Inclusive Cities aims to connect various stakeholders, including those who provide supportive social networks, safe housing, meaningful activities, and pathways to employment. By fostering collaboration, the city can better support people in recovery.

Progress in Sheffield - In May 2023, Middlesbrough became the first UK city to kickstart interest in the concept of Inclusive Cities. [1]Sheffield, along with another 10 cities have followed suit. Numerous national Inclusive Cities council meetings have taken place, with plans underway to establish a National Inclusive City Steering Group for the UK.

Notable developments in Sheffield include establishing three sub-groups:

- Equalities
- Women
- Communication
- Business – planned post September 2024

Timeline

April 2023

Sheffield DACT retained the services of Dr David Patton Associate Professor in Criminology, Derby University to help support Sheffield Recovery Forum to help Sheffield gain Inclusive Recovery City Status. David produced a project plan which included the following outputs:

- Establish a Sheffield City IRC Council
- Create a Sheffield IRC Mission Statement
- Develop Communication Plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation options
- Undertake an asset mapping Survey
- Established Focus Groups and Task Groups
- Analysis of data
- To produce an annual Project Report

June 2023

Dr David Patton presented this proposal at the Combatting Drugs board, seeking strategic support and approval.

Aug 2023

The Sheffield Inclusive Cities Steering (SICS) group was established, based on guidance and recommendations from Ghent with plans to broaden membership to include more people with lived experience of recovery.

Sept 2023

Hosted a consultation at Project 6 about what people thought the Mission statement should include.

Sept 2023

Dr David Patton produced an Inclusive Cities evaluation report based on consultations with members of Sheffield Recovery Community during Recovery Month 1) Recovery Assets, 2) Recovery Mission Statement 3) An evaluation Sheffield Recovery Forum by current and past members.

Timeline

Dec 2023 Sheffield Recovery Forum was part of a consortium of international towns and cities who joined forces to create an Inclusive Recovery Advent Calendar for 2023.

Jan 2024 Saw the launch of one of the first inclusive cities sub-groups, communications, to help design and develop a new Recovery Website

Feb 2024 Established an equalities sub-group including BAMER community organisations and activists and people with lived experience from a BAMER background. Our vision is to have a community led approach to building 'recovery capital'.

In Sheffield we recognise that there are many underserved communities whose needs are not met by mainstream drug and alcohol treatment systems. We want to change this. It is accepted that mainstream treatment services aren't always the right option for some members of our community in Sheffield. We would like to use the IRC project to explore new options of support for people.

We are planning a number of events to engage the diverse BAMER communities of Sheffield with an ambition to bring discussion of the use of drugs and alcohol to the forefront. We welcome any people of a BAMER background with lived experience of substance use to get in touch with kevin.jones@sheffield.gov.uk and Rifhat.aziz@likewise.org.uk if they are interested in being involved in this work.

Mar 2024 The SICB nominated Riff Aziz to sit and represent Sheffield on the National Inclusive Cities Council - Sheffield is going to feature in next National Inclusive Cities Newsletter

Mar 2024 Sheffield was Represented at UN about progress in Sheffield.

Timeline

Apr 2024

Sheffield Women only recovery network:

- Plans to create a bespoke recovery guide for the city to help promote the new website.
- P4C Training offered free to members of recovery forum.

Apr 2024

Business and Employment Sub-group – met with AVIVA to discuss how to create a guide of key pointers HR may consider when supporting employees with a substance use disorder or whilst in recovery

May 2024

Inclusive cities mission statement signed off by Recovery Forum

- Inclusive cities terms of reference agreed, including recommendations for new members
- Sheffield hosted National Inclusive Cities meeting
- Equalities sub-group met with Helen Steers at Voluntary Action Sheffield to discuss hosting an event for BAMER communities that would involve the community itself and an organisation BACKin
- Terms of reference for Sheffield Women's Individual Personal Experience Recovery Network (SWIPE) agreed. SWIPE isn't a support group as such but aims to help provide information of interest that could support them in their recovery journey.

May 2024

Sheffield hosted the national inclusive cities meeting and contributed to the 2nd Inclusive cities Newsletter

June 2024

The campaign received support from Combatting Drugs Strategic Board

July 2024

National Steering group established, with two representatives from Sheffield as board members

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Timeline

Aug 2024

Planning underway for a conference to address barriers to support and stigma within BAMER communities in Sheffield. This will be held in Sheffield Pakistan Muslim Centre. It will be community led and have involvement from the BAMER 5 action group. This is an exciting step on the journey to better representation and involvement from Sheffield's diverse communities in the treatment and recovery eco-system. Invites and more info will be available within the next 4 weeks.

Project 6 & SWIPE submitted two short films into the Recovery Street festival

Sept 2024

Sheffield Recovery Directory' www.sheffieldrecoverydirectory.co.uk went live and the physical 'Sheffield Recovery Guide' is being distributed. Two in person sign up events took place for organisations to join the website. A video step by step guide was created to show users how to sign up and edit their own pages. The guide itself will be distributed throughout Recovery Month, as well business cards with links and QR codes to the website.

Launched the Inclusive cities campaign via Sheffield's Recovery Directory https://sheffieldrecoverydirectory.co.uk/sheffield-inclusive-recovery-cities/

Sat on the Sheffield Recovery Forum planning group to host a month of awareness activities, including Sheffield's annual Recovery Walk, with support from Lord Mayoress, Jayne Dunn.

Launched the Sheffield Women's Individual Personal Experience Recovery Network (SWIPE) with support Sheffield City Councils Chief Executive, Kate Josephs.

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Timeline

Sept 2024

BAMER conference scheduled for 26th November 2024, with the aim to:

- Understand the barriers to treatment, learning from people with lived experience.
- Learn from affected friends and family about the wider impact in BAMER communities.
- Begin a city-wide conversation around stigma within underserved communities.
- Greater understanding of unmet need.
- Begin to map out support that exists outside mainstream treatment systems for people in recovery.

Next Steps

- 2024-25 report to be published October 2025
- Further exploration of themes through sub-groups
- Launch a recovery toolkit aimed at members of the community to support conversations about addiction and recovery
- Engaging the public in conversations about recovery

If you are interested in being part of the inclusive cities work you can, sign up and pledge your support via the website: www.sheffieldrecoverydirectory.co.uk

Or you can email Tracey.Ford@sheffield.gov.uk

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Appendix 1

A Multi Stakeholder Co-Produced Approach to Gaining Inclusive Recovery City Status for Sheffield

By Dr David Patton

The objective of this project is to conduct an audit to help Sheffield gain Inclusive Recovery City Status. Therefore, an audit of existing assets and resources will be conducted to support Sheffield's application. This audit will also include an exploration of any gaps in the existing eco-system and as such will create an action plan based upon identified growth areas that would help to create an architecture for an even more thriving and inclusive recovery community across Sheffield.

Engagement with a wide range of stakeholders from across the city will be essential to this project and will take a co-produced approach at every stage of the process including the creation of the outputs listed below.

By the end of the SIRC project we will have produced the following.

Outputs

1. **Sheffield City IRC Council:** Oversee the creation of an IRC council consisting of representatives from policy, science, practice and lived experience of recovery.
2. **Sheffield IRC Mission Statement:** Co-produce a Sheffield inclusive cities mission statement that has consulted a range of stakeholders including the voices of policy, science, practice and lived experience of recovery.
3. **Annual Schedule of IRC events:** Co-produce a one-year schedule of IRC events.

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4. **Communication Plan:** Produce a communication plan that demonstrates engagement with different audiences using different channels of communication.

5. **Monitoring and Evaluation Plan:** Develop a monitoring and evaluation model to review progress and inform ongoing changes, improvements and innovations.

6. **Asset map Survey Instrument Creation:** create an online survey instrument that will form the basis of an asset map of existing resources, identify gaps and collate hopes and dreams for the future of SIRC.

7. **Host key project events and meetings:** these will be online and face to face and will include meeting regularly with the SIRC council members, hosting a face to face launch event, monthly task group meetings etc.

8. **Focus Groups:** Facilitate a launch meeting of the gaining SIRC status project that will conduct several focus groups from a range of stakeholders to explore existing resources, identify gaps and collate hopes and dreams for the future of SIRC.

9. **Task Groups:** These task groups will be created at the initial project launch event on 29th September and will emerge from the themes emanating from the discussions from the focus groups.

10. **Analysis of data:** Focus group and survey data will be analysed using SPSS and NVIVO to help inform the report and action plan.

11. **Project Report:** A project report will be produced presenting the key data findings, describe the process of the project, highlighting the key outcomes of the project with related recommendations made for actions needed based on identified gaps.

It is hoped that within the time frame that we can successfully apply for and receive IRC status, but this will be dependent upon the audit of assets and gaps produced in the report.