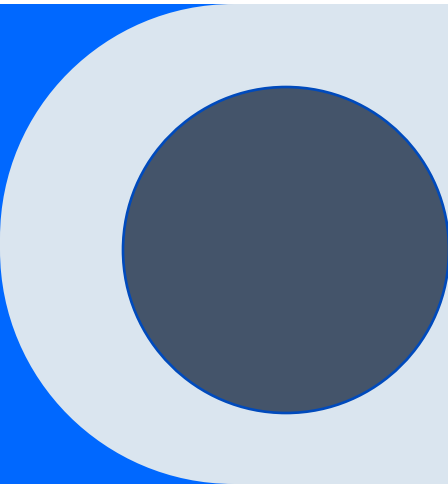




Adolescent Treatment Programme Update:

**Laura Walker MSW, ICADC, ICCS
Treatment Officer at The Department for
National Drug Control**



Purpose:

The 2024 Throne Speech highlighted the increasing necessity for adolescent substance abuse treatment on the island and further directed the establishment and execution of a program under the Department for National Drug Control to meet this requirement.



Problem Statement:

At present there is no specific program in Bermuda designed to offer substance abuse treatment services to adolescents between the ages of 10 and 17 years.



Identified Needs:



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- The National School Survey 2023 (NSS 2023) findings:
 - 11.3% of students acknowledged consuming alcohol and 5.6% marijuana within the 30 days leading up to the survey.
 - Male students were more inclined to use illegal substance including crack (0.5%), ecstasy(0.5%), cocaine (0.4%), heroin (0.5%), and other drugs (1.5%) in the same 30-day period.

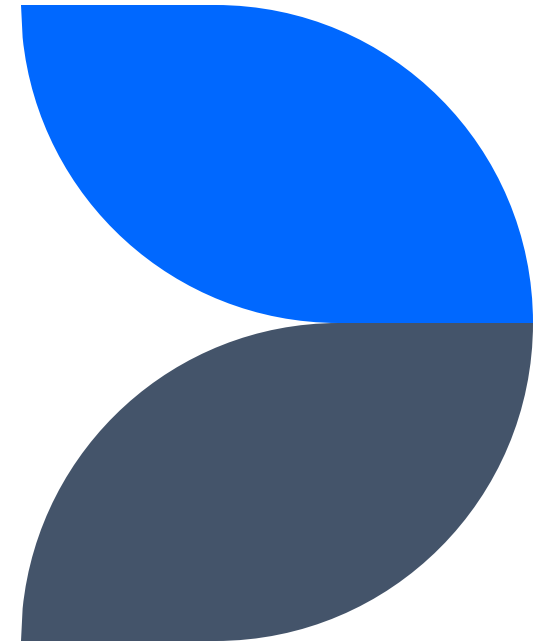


Continued:

- Students reported that their preferred substances were readily available with 7% reporting obtaining alcohol and marijuana from peers.
- A significant proportion of students (35.1%), believed that drugs could be found within their school setting.
- Over 30% of students reported travelling with impaired drivers, (8.2%) bicycles, (22.1%) vehicles.
- Inquiries to DNDC and other treatment agencies regarding substance abuse services for adolescents are ongoing.

The Process:

- Funding requested for the 2025-26 Budget Year
- Business Case finalized September 2025
- Engagement with Management Consultancy Services September 2025
- MOU/Terms of Reference signed October 2025



Continued:

- Comprehensive Stakeholder List provided to MCS October 2025
- Initial list of interviewees selected
- Letters sent to identified stakeholders to inform of the request for their participation
- MCS to begin interviews the first week of December 2025



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Next Steps:

1. Stakeholder Interviews
2. Written programme recommendations from MCS
3. DNDC review of recommendations
4. Consultation with the Ministry of National Security to agree and finalize the plan
5. Funding request to be submitted for 2026/2027 budget
6. When funding has been secured, activate the implementation plan

Questions?

THANK
YOU!

