DRIVE

Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement

An interagency response in Ireland

An interagency response to drug related Intimidation & violence in Ireland.

An tSeirbhís Phromhaidh
The Probation Service

NVDAS

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

HRB Health Research Board

rdatf
NORTH DUBLIN

Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces

LOCAL DRUGS & ALCOHOL TASK FORCES COORDINATORS NETWORK

HSE

HSE Social Inclusion

DEFINITION OF DRUG-RELATED INTIMIDATION!

"Intimidation is a serious, insidious and coercive behaviour intended to force compliance of another person against their will. It can be either explicit or implicit, involving actual, threatened or perceived threats of violence to a person or damage to property. It can leave targeted individuals, families or communities feeling helpless, isolated, demoralized and fearful. DRI is intimidation carried out by those who are using drugs, or those involved in the distribution of drugs"

(Murphy et al., 2017)

SEVERE IMPACT ON THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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"As long as there is a drugs economy where people are willing to buy and sell, there will be intimidation and violence"

(DRIVE, 2021)

A Driver Of The Drugs Economy

- DRI Is Inextricably Linked To The Drugs Economy.
- Grotesque Level Of Violence For A Relatively Small Result.
- Survival Of The Fittest Mentality.
- The Risk Is Well Worth The Reward.
- Glorification Of The Drugs Economy When Limited Other Life Prospects.
- The Lure Of The Trappings.

(DRIVE, 2021)

SOME FORMS OF INTIMIDATION

- Underlying Or Implicit Threat
- Criminal Damage To Property Or Material Items
- Cuckooing
- Forced Behaviours And Actions
- Sexual Violence (Rape / Sexual Assault)

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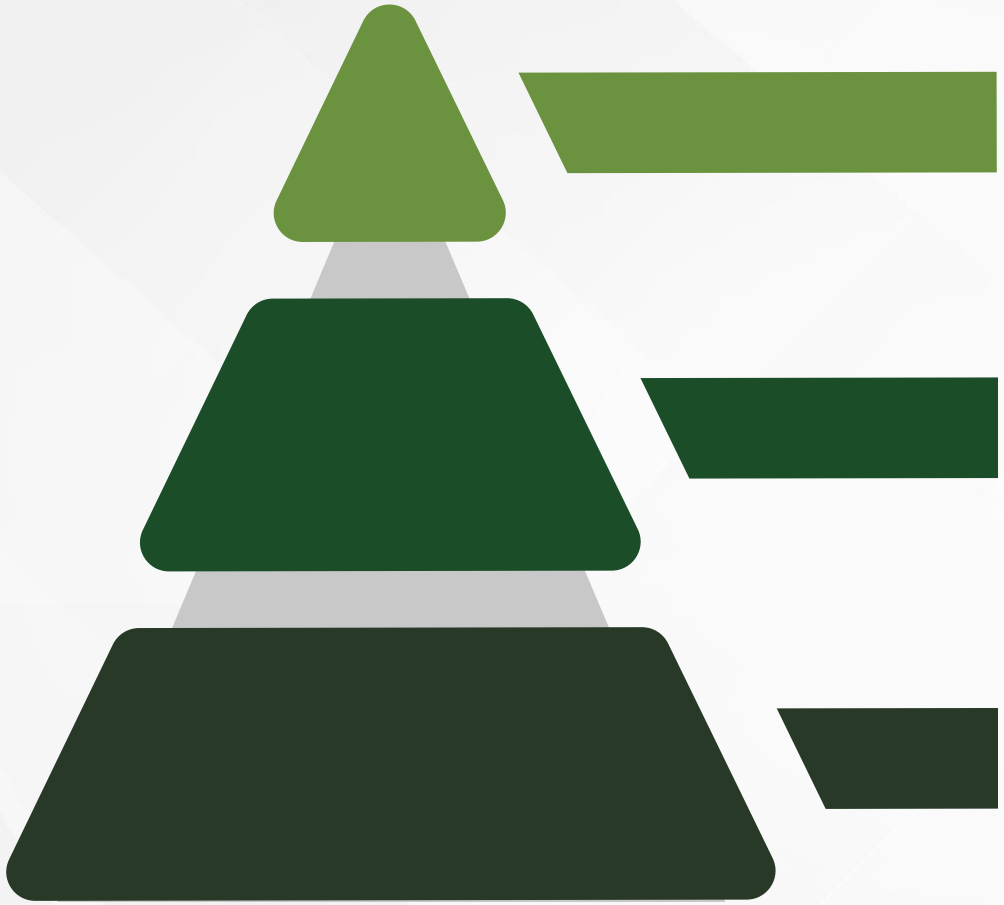
The Drug Market has gone digital so it follows that the Intimidation will also!



Serious Criminal Players

Often With Family At Core!

13 to 25 years

Transporting, Holding, Dealing, Weapons, Shootings, Beatings, Serious Intimidation

Highly Disadvantaged Young People

Bullying, Assaulting, Stealing, Vandalising, Anti-Social, Spreading Fear in Communities

(HRB., 2017)

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What is the DRIVE Project?

DRIVE (Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement) is a national interagency project with systems and structures to respond effectively to drug related intimidation and violence in Ireland.

This project is funded by the Drugs Policy, Refugee and Inclusion Health Unit, Department of Health and is over seen by the DRIVE Oversight Committee

Why was the DRIVE Project developed?

- Consistently raised as an issue in Task Forces and by community representatives including families
- Lots of research on impacts on communities
- No standardised approach
- Small group submitted application to DPU which was supported by 23 DATFS
- Approved – DRIVE Oversight Committee (DOC) set up

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DRIVE Oversight Committee
Antoinette Kinsella – Chairperson of DRIVE Oversight Committee/Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Coordinator
Ben Ryan- Asst Secretary General, Criminal Justice Policy, Dept of Justice
David Creed – Coordinator Host Task Force
Hugh Greaves – Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force Coordinator
Detective Superintendent Sé McCormack –Garda National Drugs & Organised Crime Bureau
Dave Kenny – Regional Manager, Probation Service
Joe Slattery- National Voluntary Drug & Alcohol Sector
Fran Byrne – HSE National Addiction Advisory Governance Group
Dr Suzi Lyons – Senior Researcher, Health Research Board
Supported by DRIVE Team

DRIVE STRUCTURE & PROJECT TEAM

FUNDING

from Department of Health

DRIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (DOC)

National interagency group responsible for strategy, problem-solving and monitoring. National oversight. Reports outcomes to National Drug Strategy structures

NORTH DUBLIN REGIONAL DATF - REGIONAL DATF COORDINATOR

Responsible for Budget, governance and staff

DATA & RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Located in HRB responsible for data management, reporting and outcome measurement

NATIONAL DRIVE COORDINATOR

Coordinate the implementation of the DRIVE Project in Ireland, development of DRIVE liaison Network, reporting issues to DRIVE Oversight Committee, rollout National DRIVE Training

DRIVE PROJECT OFFICER

Supporting set up of DRIVE Interagency Projects, development of Nominated DRI Inspector Network, rollout National DRIVE Training

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The DRIVE Model is comprised of six key pillars which, collectively, provide a comprehensive response to Drug-Related Intimidation. On their own, the pillars will not deliver the intended outcomes or results

DRIVE Community Structures

DRIVE LIAISON OR DRIVE LEAD

DRIVE LIAISON NETWORK

DRIVE INTERAGENCY GROUP

DRIVE INTERAGENCY GROUPS

Established by DATF Coordinators and supported by DRIVE liaison/lead with nominated Inspector. Core members: addiction, family & youth services, AGS, Traveller services, JLO, FRC, local authority and others depending on area

- Current situation
  Community insights
- Identify referral pathways
- Dissemination of resources
- Problem solving
- Identify community supports needed
- Develop local responses
- Two way linkage to DLN

DRIVE community structures

National DRIVE Oversight Committee

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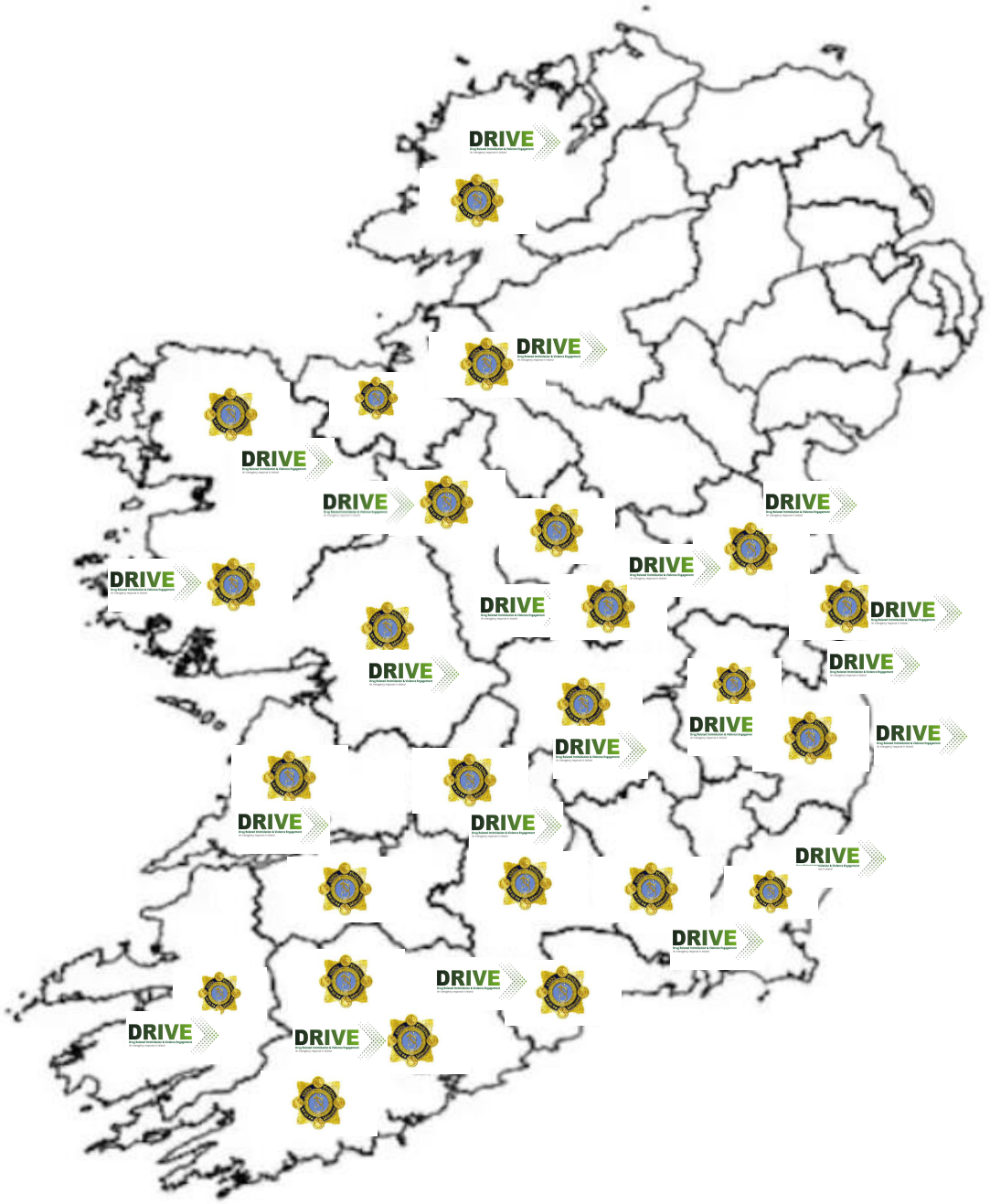
DRIVE Liaison Network (DLN)
Area based DRIVE Interagency Groups (DIGs)

Led by Task Forces and supported by

- DRIVE **DRIVE liaison**
- **Nominated DRI Inspectors**



Strengthening the Garda response

NOMINATED INSPECTORS CONTACT LIST
WWW.DRIVEPROJECT.IE

NOMINATED INSPECTOR TRAINING/BRIEFING SESSION

INSPECTORS NETWORK

ONLINE DRIRP BRIEFINGS FOR ALL GARDA MEMBERS

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Drug-Related Intimidation Reporting Programme

Specially Nominated Inspector In every Garda Division.

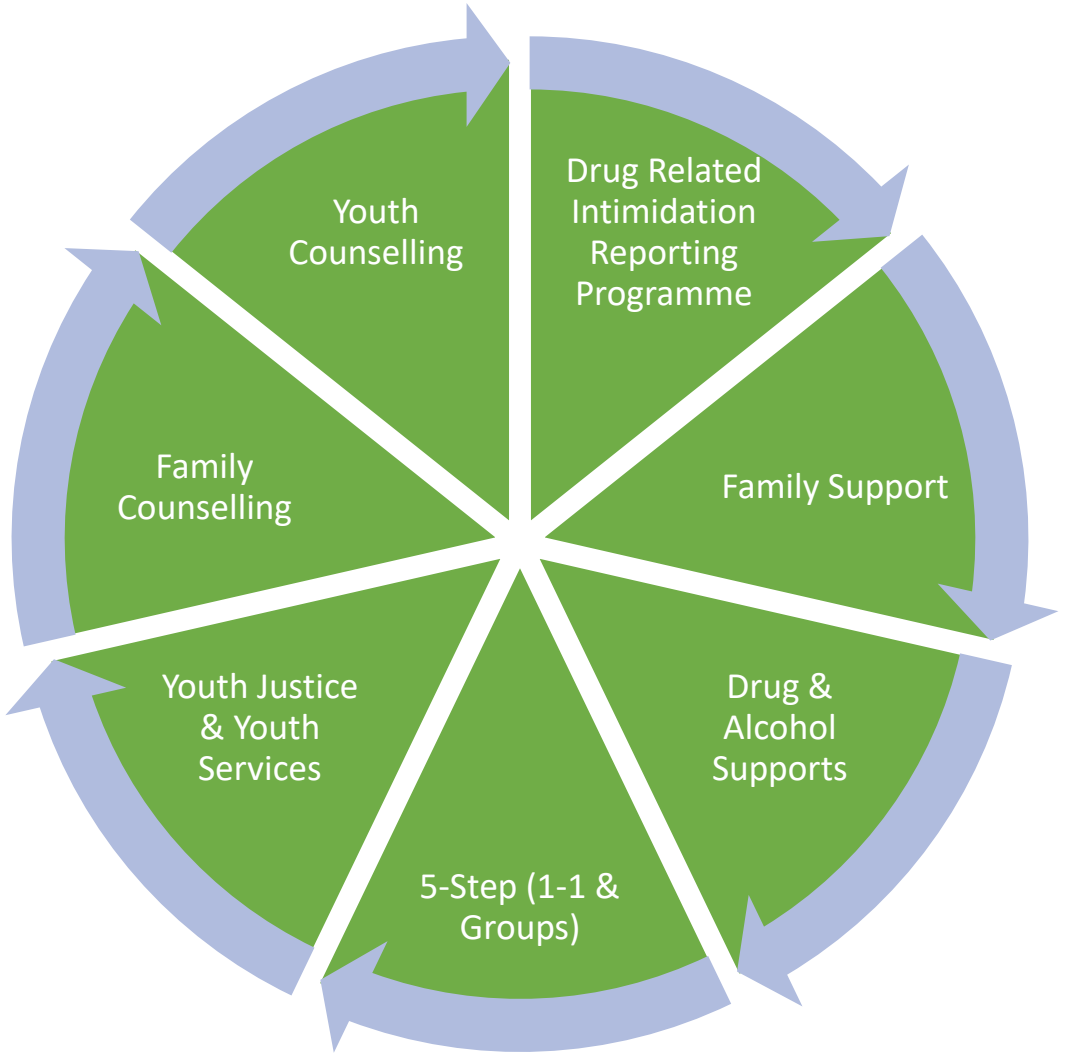
- Confidentiality
- Provide practical safety information
- Provide advice in relation to the particular threats or instances of intimidation
- Provide information on appropriate drug support services for the individual in the family who is accruing drug debts
- Outline how to make a formal complaint, what is involved, what happens after and possible outcomes. It is the decision of the person being intimidated if they want to make a formal complaint.

Data Research and Evaluation

Data research and evaluation coordinator has been employed by North Dublin Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force

Working with the HRB

Supports for victims of DRI



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Work To Date	
DRIVE Oversight Committee/Sub Committees	DOC and sub committee structures continue to meet on a monthly/ongoing basis
Website	Website established and translated to 10 different languages www.driveproject.ie
Leaflets	DRI Leaflet developed, currently being updated, which will include signposting to services and DRIVE QR code
Roadshows	DRIVE Roadshows presented throughout the country. Huge participation and attendance from key stakeholders
DRIVE liaison/lead Network	Network meetings held monthly
DIG's	DRIVE Interagency Groups continue to be established by each Task Force with the support of the DRIVE Project Officer
DRIRP Briefings	Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme briefings continue to be held online. Approx 1270 attending to date
TF Coordinators Network	DRIVE presented to both RDATF Coordinators Network and LDATF Coordinators Network

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Work to date Cont'd	
Cluid Housing	DRIVE presentation to 78 staff members of Cluid Housing
Citizens Assembly	DRIVE presentation to Citizens Assembly
AGS Conference	Presentations made to DRIRP AGS Conference 2022/2023
EPPOC / NI DOJ	Presentation to Northern Ireland Executive Programme for Paramilitarism & Organised Crime / Northern Ireland Dept. of Justice
Garda Inspectorate	Worked with the Garda Inspectorate – interviews of people with lived experience
British Irish Council	Poster presentation to Minister Naughton & British Irish Council members
National DRIVE Conference	National DRIVE Conference held in Athlone, 174 people in attendance from the Community, Voluntary and Statutory sectors

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Next steps for DRIVE Project Nationally

- AGS Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme Nominated Ins training
- Continuation of establishment of DRIVE Interagency Groups
- Nominated DRI Inspector Network
- DRIVE Training and capacity building
- National DRIVE awareness campaign
- Data research and evaluation coordinator - HRB

Support message:

- All over Ireland now there are people in whole communities gripped by fear and powerlessness because of intimidation by drug dealers, this will not be resolved quickly but the DRIVE message is you are not alone and there is help

- It is important to remember that drug related intimidation can happen to any family and accessing support can really help

- If you or someone you know is experiencing drug related intimidation, you can access a list of safe, free and confidential services and supports available in your local area on the DRIVE website www.driveproject.ie

THANK YOU

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SCAN ME