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What area does your submission relate to?
Community Development

Your comments
On behalf of the East Coast Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force

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Created On 2020-01-08

Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027

submission by **East Coast Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force**

January 2020

Provision of community infrastructure and services

The East Coast Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force looks for and supports the provision of a community facility within the Greystones MD Area large enough to accommodate our services and other groups providing a range of 'care in the community' services to vulnerable members of this community who need it. This facility will need to be affordable, accessible and suitable for a range of directly provided services.

This Task Force is attempting to expand and deliver services in the Greystones Municipal Area in direct response to requests made and needs already identified and being further researched. We are attempting to provide direct services to individuals, families and communities affected by drugs including alcohol across the region. We have found bases in both Arklow and Wicklow town at rents and venues which are affordable, accessible and suitable to do this work. Our services link directly with others, including but not exclusively homeless services and mental health services. Ideally, a facility which could accommodate these and other service also would be very useful to the users of such services.

However, we can find no specific premises in the Greystones Municipal area where we can do similar work which are similarly affordable and accessible. As Greystones town has the second highest population in Wicklow (per Census 2016) and with its continuous and large scale housing developments at this time, it is vital that we establish a presence and service in or around this particular town. Previous contact with Wicklow County Council (WCC) and the Town Secretary has yielded no results and we have been told that no plans are in place to change this at any stage in the near future. We are prepared to provide services which are free and confidential to this community for those directly and indirectly affected by drug (including alcohol) misuse. We urgently need WCC to help priorities and source suitable facilities for such services in this region.

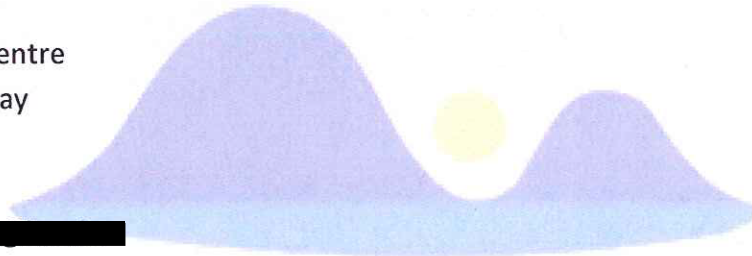
From consultation with other providers (e.g. Family Resource Centres, Homeless Service providers and not-for-profit counselling providers) a need for a dedicated space for a range of 'helping services' for those affected adversely by issues beyond their control and services willing to provide care in the community is a must. From our perspective, services which could be provided NOW could include:

- Information, education and advocacy support
- Rehabilitation and Aftercare support

Support for family members affected by another's drug/alcohol use
Counselling and other relevant therapeutic services

We urgently ask that you consider carefully the provision of such services in all Municipal Area and particularly large towns like Greystones with a range of these and other 'care in the community' services possibly sited under one roof to assist all ages and needs. A multi-purpose community centre accommodating a range of resource providers in close proximity to each other would enhance the socio-economic benefits of this large town, Greystones, and its rapidly expanding population size.

For clarification or further details please contact:
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