

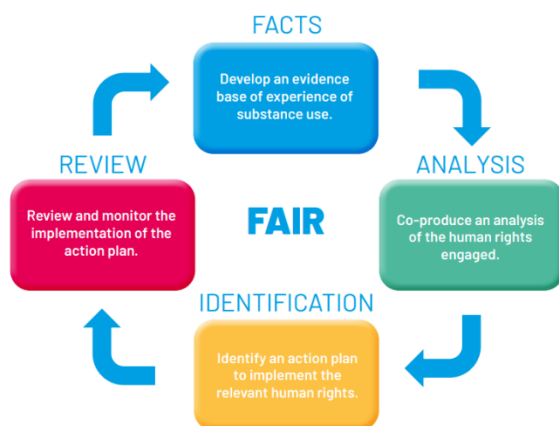
What is the National Collaborative?

In January 2022, the former First Minister invited Professor Alan Miller to become independent Chair and build the National Collaborative. The [National Collaborative](#) is supported by a team from Scottish Government Drug Policy Division and facilitated by the ALLIANCE (The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland).

The purpose of the National Collaborative is to bring together people with experience of drugs and/or alcohol, service providers and government (local and national) to develop a Charter of Rights. This Charter will show how existing rights and rights to be included in the forthcoming Human Rights Bill can be implemented in practice for people affected by drugs and alcohol.

The aim of the Charter of Rights is to strengthen individual and collective advocacy by people affected by substances in a range of contexts (not just drug and alcohol treatment services). It will also be a tool to improve service delivery and policy development.

What stage is the National Collaborative at?



The NC are following a 'FAIR' model which sets out the steps of a Human Rights Based Approach. We are now moving into the **Identification** stage. As a summary, below are some key milestones achieved so far.

In October 2022 a [Change Team](#)- a group of 15 people who have experience (direct and indirect) of substance use- was recruited to drive forward the process through monthly meetings.

In December 2022, after broad engagement with stakeholders, the NC published it's [Roadmap](#). This set out the plan: 1) To empower people affected by problem substance use to be involved in decision-making concerning the design, delivery and regulation of drug and alcohol support services; 2) To develop a Charter of Rights which set out how the rights to be included in the forthcoming Human Rights Bill can be effectively implemented.

From May to Aug 2023 National Collaborative launched a Call for Evidence to gather views from around Scotland about people's experiences of substance use and human rights. The findings from this Call for Evidence were published in an [Analysis Report](#) on 1 Nov 2023.

A draft Charter of Rights which will be shared in Dec 2023 for further consultation, particularly on how people will use it.

What's next?

Throughout January to June 2024, the National Collaborative wants to bring together the Change Team and a group of key duty bearers from relevant fields (health and social care, regulation and scrutiny) to discuss implementation of the Charter of Rights. These discussions will take place as “**InterActions**”. The term “InterAction” was coined during the Inquiry into historic child abuse as a way of capturing the intention to bring together rights holders and duty bearers (“Inter”) in a process focused on making change happen (“Action”).

The purpose of InterActions process is to ensure the Charter of Rights leads to improvements in people's experiences of services.

It will do this by:

- Supporting people working in services and those responsible for delivering services to understand what the Charter is and how it was developed;
- Identifying practical changes which are necessary to ensure that the rights can be realised in a range of different service contexts;
- Scoping out the forms of guidance and training required for duty bearing organisations
- Empowering communities to hold local systems to account through the development of checklists and indicators as a way of monitoring service delivery

In August, the Change Team met to discuss how this process should happen. The following points were agreed and a list of people was drawn up who they thought would meet the criteria.

Who should we be inviting to take part?

- We want representation from across different hierarchies (strategic and operational) and service contexts
- It should be a “working group” i.e. small, manageable numbers (max. 8-12)
- We should be looking for people who more or less get it already, some of whom are on the ground and who will be the ones who will be required to implement.

What level of commitment are we looking for (i.e. timeframe and frequency of meetings)?

- Preparatory Briefing paper and discussion with the NC Support Team
- 3 full-days workshops in February, April and June

CT developed the following Criteria for the duty bearer group:

1. Connected and committed- not just paying lip service to human rights
2. Operating at a strategic level where they can action change
3. Fearless and ready to be involved in a challenging process
4. Experience across varied sectors and have good networks and connections across different areas in Scotland