



# Review of Drug Related Deaths of Younger People in Highland (age 16-25)



Debbie Stewart

Frances Matthewson

# Background



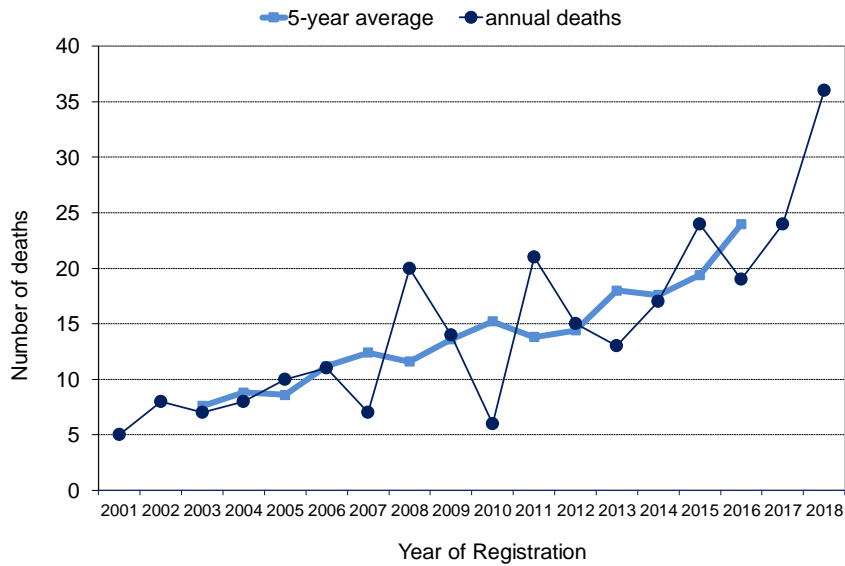
**The Herald**

***Alarm over new  
'Trainspotting' generation  
as drug deaths soar  
among under 24s  
(August 2019)***



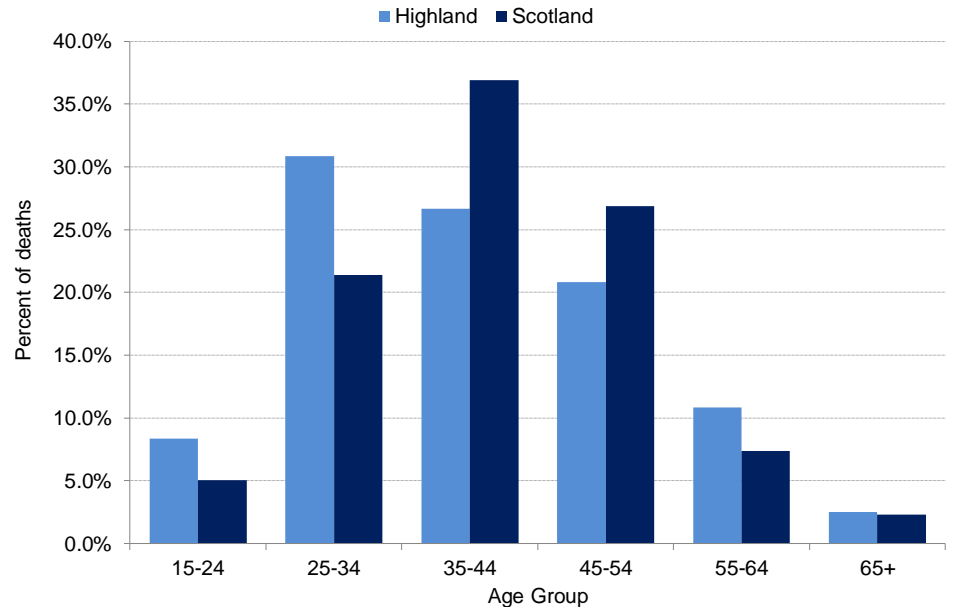
**Drug related death rates among 15 – 24 year olds are higher in Highland than over half of all other local authorities (2014 to 2018)**

# Trends and age-specific Drug-related deaths



Number of deaths in Highland annual value and 5 year averages; 2001 to 2018

## Drug-related deaths by age group percentage in Highland and Scotland (2014-2018)



# Study Aims



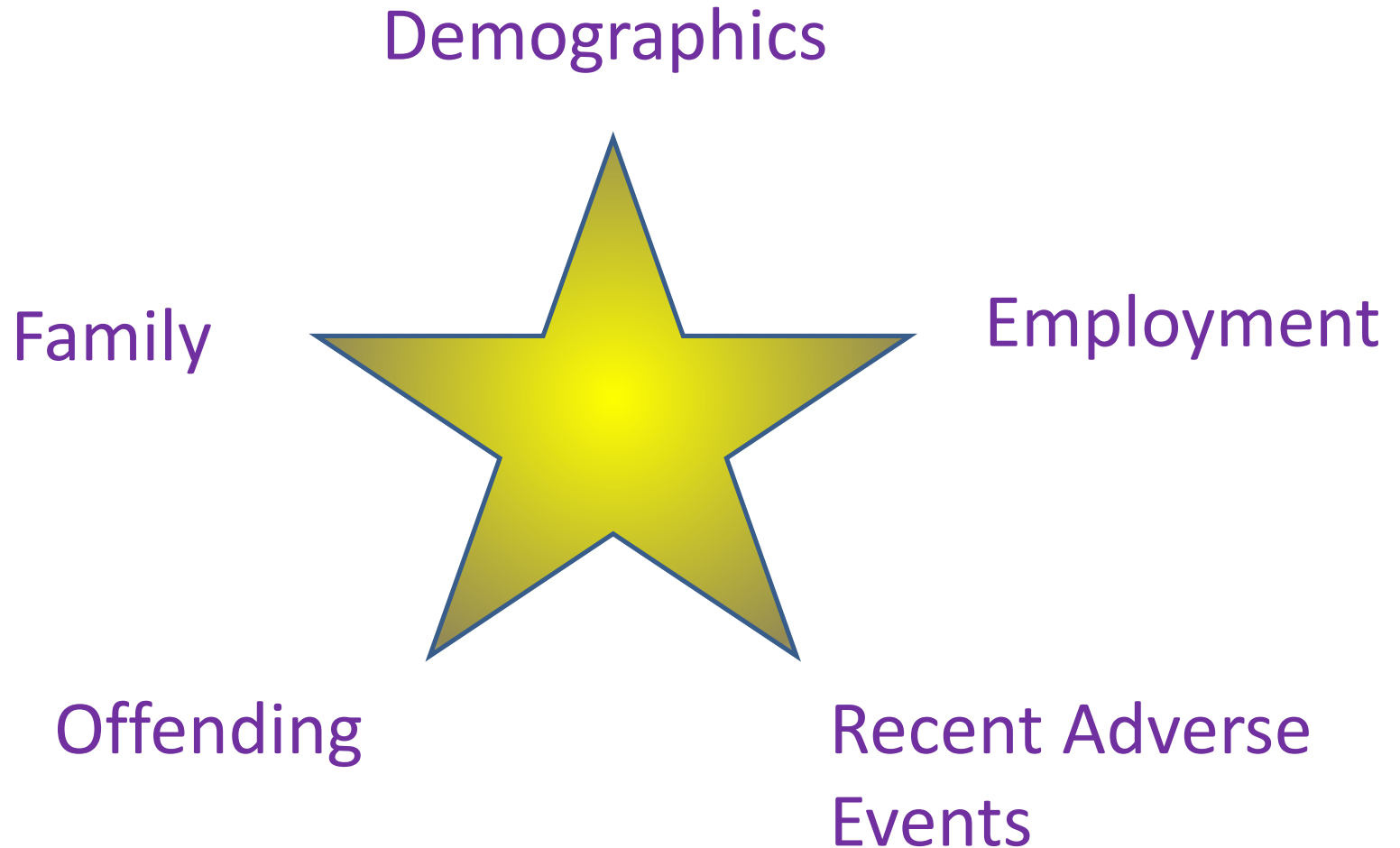
## Maximise Learning

- child and adult services
- public health
- integrated health & social care services

# Study Methods

- Conduct a literature search
- Gather all available sources of information about the young people from:
  - Health / Social Work / Education / Justice
- Describe and examine patterns and trends using qualitative research methods including thematic review.

# Selected Initial Findings



# Learning Points

- Culture change, ***Stigma & Discrimination***
- Leadership and partnership working
- ‘Whole system’ model of care
- Integration of substance use and mental health services
- Assertive outreach, retention, service design
- Intergenerational nature of substance use
- Trauma and links to risk taking behaviour
- Higher rate of children removed from parental care
- Drivers for ‘Trainspotting’ generation
- Qualitative data, participatory action research

***“Every life is precious and every death matters”***

*(Problem Drug Use in Scotland, 2019)*