



Alcohol Research UK is an independent charity working to reduce levels of alcohol-related harm by ensuring that policy and practice can always be developed on the basis of research-based evidence.

It is a lead funder of high quality research into the causes, impact and prevention of alcohol-related harm and is the only charity dedicated solely to funding research in this area.

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CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

This is a time of major strategic transition for Alcohol Research UK, which I and my fellow trustees believe will greatly enhance our effectiveness as a charity dedicated to reducing the harms caused by alcohol.

We have long recognised the importance of not only researching the causes of these harms and ways of moderating them but also ensuring that the findings of research, the scientific evidence, is translated into more effective policy and practice around alcohol use and misuse. Evidence with impact.

This means we need to strengthen our role in advocacy – and over the past year we have been in discussions with another charity, Alcohol Concern, who have a strong track record and high public profile in evidence-based advocacy, to see how best we can work more closely together. I'm delighted to report that the result of those discussions led to our decision to merge and as from April 2017 Alcohol Concern and Alcohol Research UK became a unified organisation with a combined mission to tackle alcohol-related harm.

This means that, whilst we will continue with our core work of funding research into preventing and reducing the harmful effects caused by alcohol, and carry on supporting early-career researchers, we can now become an even more powerful voice for evidence-based policy and practice. We will be engaging more closely with policymakers, practitioners and the public to share knowledge and information, and to ensure that, wherever possible, decisions about alcohol are properly informed by the scientific facts.

During the year, we made some changes to our Board of Trustees. Gareth Harkin joined the Board in July 2016, bringing valuable experience from the commercial world and we very much welcome him to Alcohol Research UK. In December 2016, we said farewell to Dr Michael Cross who stepped down from the Board. Michael really did go the extra mile for us in 2016 by taking on an incredible fundraising challenge to help set up an online support service for children and young people affected by substance misuse. He did this by cycling, running and walking an astonishing 17,000 km across the year. A remarkable achievement for which we are extremely grateful.

Following the merger, we welcomed two new trustees from Alcohol Concern to our Board in April 2017, Dr Emily Finch and Peter Holland. Emily is an addictions psychiatrist and the clinical director for the Addictions Clinical Academic Group. She brings frontline clinical and research experience to the Board. Peter is Chief Executive of the Office for Public Management Group and has a wealth of experience in optimising social impact for the public good.

As our current Chief Executive, Dave Roberts, prepares to move on after eight years of service in September 2017, I would like to take the opportunity to thank him for his exceptional contribution. Dave was instrumental not only in creating Alcohol Research UK as a charity out of its previous incarnation as the Alcohol Education and Research Council but also in negotiating the merger with Alcohol Concern and finally in masterminding the move to our new permanent home in Swinton Street in King's Cross, London. He will be leaving us in a very good place, literally and metaphorically, on which to build our new expanded role. We warmly wish him every success for the future.

Finally, I'm delighted to report that, following a competitive recruitment process overseen by external consultants, the Board has appointed Dr Richard Piper as our new Chief Executive. Richard has a particular strength in developing strategic vision and optimising impact in the charity sector and we very much look forward to working with him as we seek to take our newly combined organisation to the next level.

Professor Alan Maryon-Davis

Chair of Trustees Alcohol Research UK

WE CAN NOW BECOME AN EVEN MORE POWERFUL VOICE FOR **EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY** AND PRACTICE



This has been quite a year for Alcohol Research UK; possibly the most exciting and eventful in its history. It was dominated by two major developments.

First, after having to move four times in the last eight years, we decided to invest some of our reserves in a permanent home for the charity. In the spring, we found the ideal location at 27 Swinton Street, London, just five minutes from King's Cross. Having bought it, the next task was a major refurbishment and this proved a less than straightforward project. However, I am pleased to say that the work is now complete and the office space works perfectly for us.

Owning our own property will give the organisation and its staff some stability and will reduce our overheads so that we can fund more charitable work. The new space also provides an additional stream of revenue as we will be subletting some of it out enabling further reinvestment into our work.

Then, in the autumn, we began talks with another charity, Alcohol Concern, about a possible merger. We immediately saw the potential that this provided in terms of pairing our strong evidence-base and scientific credibility with Alcohol Concern's long history of representing the sector and influencing policy and practice. We entered into a period of intense discussions and negotiations over the next few months and completed the formalities on 31st March 2017.

I believe that we are now presented with the most amazing opportunity to become a real force in the sector and to truly deliver on our ambition to reduce alcohol-related harm to individuals, families and society.

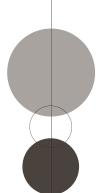
This will include a much greater ability to attract new funds so that we can invest in more research and the other excellent projects that we are now undertaking to inform policymakers, practitioners and the public.

As part of the merger, we welcomed five new members of staff to the team from Alcohol Concern who have settled in remarkably well and are exploring, together with Alcohol Research UK colleagues, new ways to optimise our work.

Alongside these major developments, the rest of our business continued as usual. Foremost within this was our research grants programme. We funded a total of £485,316 during the year.

We awarded five new research innovation grants under our theme of 'Treatment and Recovery Today' and beneficiaries included Middlesex University, Cardiff University, University of Edinburgh and the University of Sheffield as well as Adfam, the national charity that works to improve the quality of life for families affected by alcohol and drug use.

We also awarded five PhD Studentships, including one jointly with the Economic and Social Research Council. In addition, we awarded nine small grants.



We continued the important work on measuring impact that we started last year. The merger gave us the opportunity to take a step back and think again about our strategic objectives and to consider a much broader range of potential impacts. We are now forging ahead with our plans, including investment in a new grants management database.

The year also saw us embark on a sector-leading project to explore patient and public involvement in alcohol research which was the central theme of our annual conference bringing together researchers, policymakers, service providers, and people with direct experience of alcohol harms. The aim is to understand, through a series of events and reports, what effective involvement means and how to achieve it. We want to inform not only our own work but that of others in the field too.

A major redevelopment of our brand and website began during the year. This is now being extended following the merger. The scope is now much wider and decisions need to be made about the merged organisation's brand going forward.

Financially, the year was an interesting one. Historically, we have tended to rely on the funds generated by our investments to support our work and in recent years our strategy has been to start to supplement this with new income streams. However, this year the property and merger projects meant that we were unable to build on this in any significant way. Nonetheless, the investments compensated for this by continuing to perform well in terms of capital growth. We were able to divest some of this growth to support our work, including the refurbishment of 27 Swinton Street, and still see the investments valued at 5% more at the end of the year than they had been at the beginning.

This is the last Annual Review that I shall be contributing to, as I will shortly be moving on to something new. I have thoroughly enjoyed my eight years at Alcohol Research UK and it is hard to believe how far we have come since 2009, when I was the first Chief Executive and the first full-time member of staff of what was then the Alcohol Education and Research Council. The future looks incredibly bright and I wish the organisation every success in the future.

Dave Roberts

Chief Executive Alcohol Research UK



THE EFFECTS OF HARMFUL DRINKING



595,000

adults in England are alcohol dependent and in need of specialist treatment.



HOWEVER

the numbers
receiving treatment
are closer
to just 100,000.

An estimated

200,000

children live with a parent who is alcohol dependent. ¹



While overall levels of consumption continue to fall, around 2.5 million people report drinking over 14 units on their heaviest drinking days.³





Alcohol misuse is linked to more than





medical conditions, including liver disease, heart disease, some cancers and depression.

Alcohol misuse is estimated to cost NHS England

£3.5 billion per year.⁵

Alcohol misuse

remains a significant contributor to liver disease deaths.



In England and Wales,

of all alcohol-related deaths in 2015 were caused by alcoholic liver disease.4

339,000

hospital admissions in England were directly attributable to alcohol in 2015-16.6



In 2015, there were

alcohol-related deaths in the UK.7



- Pryce, R. et al. (2017). Estimates of alcohol dependence in England based on APMS 2014, including estimates of children living in a household with an adult with alcohol dependence: prevalence, trends, and amenability to treatment. University of Sheffield, King's College London and Public Health England
- ² Pryce, R. et al. (2017). Estimates of alcohol dependence in England based on APMS 2014, including estimates of children living in a household with an adult with alcohol dependence: prevalence, trends, and amenability to treatment, University of Sheffield, Kina's College London and Public Health England
- ³ Health and Social Care Information Centre (2016). Statistics on Alcohol, England, 2016
- 4 NHS Digital (2017), Statistics on Alcohol, England, 2017
- ⁵ Health and Social Care Information Centre (2015). Statistics on Alcohol, England, 2015
- 6 NHS Digital (2017), Statistics on Alcohol, England, 2017
- ⁷ Office for National Statistics (2017), Alcohol-related deaths in the UK: registered in 2015.

SECTION ONE



Montage created by Voicebox Inc. from images taken at our Annual Conference.

Working together for the benefit of those most in need



DR JAMES NICHOLLS Director of Research and Policy Development

H Voicesof experiencely

Sharing expertise and delivering high quality research



This year, we have focussed on ensuring that our work benefits those most in need of support. In order to achieve that, we established a programme of activities designed to improve public and service user involvement in all aspects of our research.

Starting in October 2016, we ran a series of workshops across the UK connecting researchers, funders, service providers, charities and people with lived experience of alcohol harms, and exploring how Alcohol Research UK can better reflect the needs of its beneficiaries. This work culminated in our national conference. which attracted over 120 attendees and broke new ground in bringing a diversity of stakeholders together to explore public involvement. Through this process, we have forged stronger links with services and other funders, as well as broadening our reach in the research and practice communities.

Alongside our national conference, this year's annual early career symposium attracted over 70 attendees. Our early career symposium is now established as one of the key events in the alcohol research field: a unique opportunity for the new generation of research talent to meet, share ideas and present their findings to a wider audience. With increasing numbers of our PhD graduates and Small Grant recipients going on to establish careers in the alcohol and substance use research field, this event has become increasingly important and inspiring.

Following our early career symposium, we hosted an evening networking event and debate with an excellent line-up of speakers representing a range of different experiences, all with an interest in reducing alcohol-related harm. It was a hugely beneficial day which provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on the best ways to work together to achieve the goal of better harm reduction.

This year, we were also co-sponsors of the Kettil Bruun Society (KBS) symposium at the University of Sheffield. The KBS symposium is one of the primary international conferences for alcohol researchers, bringing together leading specialists from across the globe. We organised two well-attended seminars as part of the five-day event, looking especially at alcohol and health inequalities: an issue we see as essential to understanding and preventing alcohol-related harms. We have also supported the work of the Drinking Studies Network – a collaboration of leading interdisciplinary scholars looking at how drinking cultures change over time - through sponsorship of an international conference at the University of Exeter.

We continue to support the Medical Council on Alcohol's annual symposium in London, and have also helped launch the international Addiction Theory Network which seeks to promote better evidence around addiction and treatment.





Alcohol Research UK continues to advise and collaborate with key national policymakers to help ensure that decisionmaking remains evidence-based and effective. We sit on the Public Health England (PHE) Alcohol Leadership Board and work closely with ministers and civil servants across Government to inform their thinking. Last year, we gave written and oral evidence to the recent House of Lords Select Committee on the 2003 Licensing Act, and we continue to co-chair the National Licensing and Public Health Network with colleagues at PHE. We also supported PHE in delivering an evaluation of their Analytical Support Package for public health work in licensing across eight local authorities, leading to the publication of a national toolkit in June⁸.

We are committed to producing work that meets the highest standards of research, and are pleased that numerous papers arising from work we have funded have been published in peer reviewed journals this year. Key reports have been published in the BMJ9, Addiction10, the Journal of Emergency Medicine¹¹, Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy¹², and Substance Use and Misuse¹³. Our published research covers key issues including the impact of alcohol on heart disease, the impact of alcohol on emergency departments, the changing nature of drinking cultures, and the role of brief interventions in non-clinical contexts. We remain key sources for views and opinions on alcohol research and policy, and regular commentators in the news media.

In addition to primary studies, we continue to support key sources for research dissemination. Drug and Alcohol Findings remains the largest research library in the substance use field globally; Alcohol Policy UK is the key online source for updates and debate on UK research and policy news: and we will continue to support the DS Daily website, which has over 5,000 subscribers and provides an invaluable source of daily news for researchers and practitioners

in the field. Working with the Institute of Alcohol Studies, we have also helped launch the 'Alcohol Research Grapevine': a new online forum aimed at helping the international community of alcohol researchers get better connected and plan future collaborations.

66 Overall, this year has seen our research impact grow – not only through the conventional routes of peer-reviewed publications and raised public awareness, but also through the development of key new relationships with service providers, practitioners and the public.

As we move into our new future, we see this as providing a critical foundation on which to ensure that our work is not only high quality, but relevant to the lives of those most affected by alcohol harms.

⁸ Public Health England. 2017. Findings from the pilot of the Analytical Support Package for alcohol licensing. Available at: https://www gov.uk/government/publications/alcohol-licensing-pilot-of-analyticalsupport-package/findings-from-the-pilot-of-the-analytical-supportpackage-for-alcohol-licensing

 $^{^{\}rm 9}~$ Bell, S. et al. 2017. Association between clinically recorded alcohol consumption and initial presentation of 12 cardiovascular diseases population based cohort study using linked health records, BMJ 207:356. http://www.bmj.com/content/356/bmj.j909

¹⁰ Ally, A. et al. 2016. Developing a social practice-based typology of British drinking culture in 2009-11: implications for alcohol policy analysis. Addiction 111.9. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ add.13397/full?platform=hootsuite

¹¹ Patton, B. and Green, G. 2017, Alcohol identification and intervention in English emergency departments. Emergency Medicine Journal Early View. http://emj.bmj.com/content/early/2017/05/07/ emermed-2016-206467

¹² Thom, B., Herring, R., Bayley, M. 2016. The role of training in IBA implementation beyond primary healthcare settings in the UK Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy 23.5. http://www.tandfonline. com/doi/full/10.1080/09687637.2016.1195792

¹³ Parkman, T. et al. 2017. How Do People Who Frequently Attend Emergency Departments for Alcohol-Related Reasons Use. View and Experience Specialist Addiction Services? Substance Use and Misuse Early View. http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1082 6084.2017.1285314

Strengthening our grants programme to deliver collaborative research projects

Treatment and recovery

In recent years, the alcohol services sector has been the subject of major structural changes and significant financial pressures. There have also been new developments in approaches to treatment and thinking around recovery. These developments have had a considerable impact on some of the most marginalised and vulnerable members of our community.

We wanted to capture the nature of these changes, in the hope of producing findings that could have a positive impact on policy and practice, so we made this the priority for Research Innovation Grant funding for both 2017 and 2018.

In order to promote better public involvement in the research we fund, we strongly encouraged applicants to build this into their project design and include service users, treatment providers, experts by experience, practitioners and families affected by harmful drinking into their project design. Drawing on the wealth of expertise in the different stakeholder groups, for example treatment providers and commissioners, we urged researchers to consider collaborative approaches in their applications.

This year we funded four projects totalling £230,011 against this priority.

• the University of Edinburgh was awarded £57,511 to investigate what helps people to maintain their recovery: the experience and active ingredients of sustaining recovery within a supportive social environment:

- Middlesex University was awarded £56,612 to explore pathways through and beyond alcohol treatment among the Polish community;
- the University of Sheffield was awarded £56,091 to examine how local authorities commission alcohol services; and
- Cardiff University was awarded £59,797 to study faith-based recovery organisations, and the role of faith in supporting dependent drinkers.

Our 2016/17 research priorities were focused on developing a greater understanding of:

- Mental health issues and dual diagnosis
- Needs assessment and response to demand
- Pathways through, and barriers to, treatment and recovery
- Health or social inequalities and access to / experiences of treatment and recovery support
- Experiences of minority groups or hard-to-reach communities
- Understanding the 'active ingredients' in treatment and recovery
- The impact of economic pressures / sector restructuring on service provision



ANDREA TILOUCHE Director of Grants and Programmes

WE URGE RESEARCHERS TO CONSIDER **COLLABORATIVE** APPROACHES IN THEIR **APPLICATIONS**









Support for children and young people affected by substance misuse

We are very grateful to our former trustee, Dr Michael Cross, who set himself an enormous challenge to raise £15,000 for Alcohol Research UK and Adfam to help children brought up in homes where a parent or guardian is drinking hazardously.

Michael's challenge was to cycle, run or walk 15,000 km (subsequently increased to 17,000 km) during 2016 and he achieved his goal at the end of 2016. He and his sponsors raised much needed funds for Adfam, to get an online support forum off the ground which Alcohol Research UK match-funded. This project aims to assist children and young people aged eleven years and over, living with a parent or relative whose substance misuse is having an impact on their health and well-being. The forum is now in development and will provide:

- peer to peer support between young people accessing the forum;
- peer support from volunteers with lived experience;
- access to expert advice from a member of Adfam's team;
- monthly, online, facilitated group sessions; and
- information about substance misuse and other sources of support.

Supporting researchers at the start of their career

One of our objectives is to nurture new researchers and to achieve this we offer PhD Studentships; hold early career symposia where our funded students help to organise the events and review the papers; and we make it mandatory that proposals for our Research Innovation Grants include a meaningful role for an early career researcher.

In the year, we provided co-funding for five PhD students to undertake alcohol-related research across a range of areas with joint funding from the following universities:

University of Liverpool: Inhibitory control in heavy drinking: improving our understanding to optimize behavioural treatments

Middlesex University: Peer mentors and volunteers within specialist alcohol treatment services: role development, wellbeing and career progression

University of Exeter: The therapeutic effect of Brief Adaptive Coping Training (BACT) on relapse to alcohol provoked by negative emotional experience

London South Bank University: Identity Transition in Recovery from Alcohol Addiction: An Exploration of the Underlying Implicit and Explicit Processes and Mechanisms of Change

Economic & Social Research Council at the University of Liverpool: How common are alcohol problems in the UK Police Service and what is the level of comorbidity with mental health problems?

Providing funding for our small grants scheme

We awarded nine small grants this year for a wide range of studies. We funded online interventions, evaluations, pilot projects, investigations using novel methods (e.g. Bayesian structural time series), and a systematic review.

Grants awarded during the year under this scheme were:

Teesside University: A systematic Review of Alcohol Interventions with Patients with Cancer

University of Bristol: 'Nowcasting' of population alcohol-related harms using novel Bayesian timeseries methods and synthetic controls

Cardiff University: Can alcohol media literacy training for children and young people prevent alcohol related harm? A realist review of what works, for whom and in what contexts

University of Bolton: The Application of Positive Psychology to Dual Diagnosis through facilitating hope, resilience and well-being: A pilot study

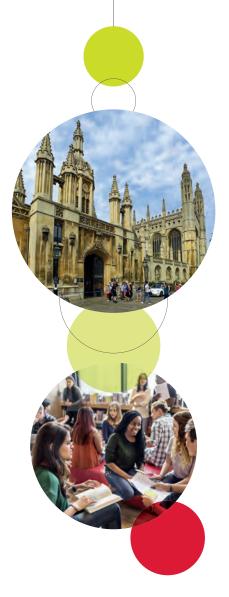
King's College London: Liver disease risk factors in patients treated for alcohol and drug dependence

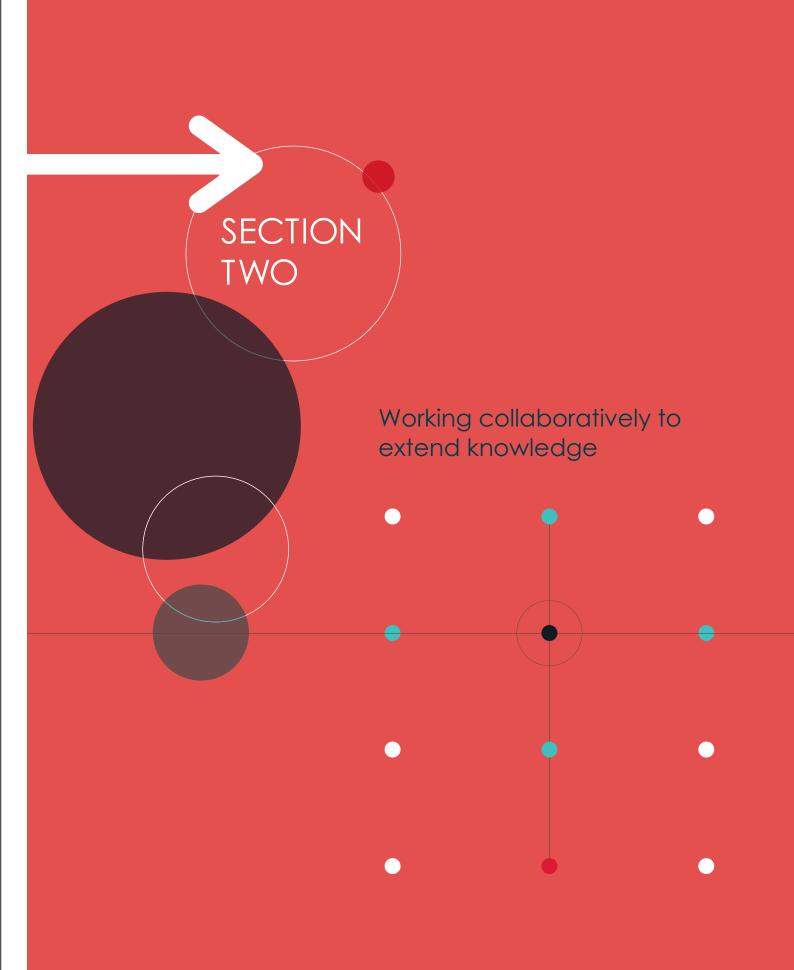
The Women and Girls' Network: Pilot of an integrated group work programme to address interpersonal violence, post-traumatic stress and alcohol use amongst women accessing substance misuse services

Swanswell: The Sandwell multi-agency management group for high impact problem drinkers: Describing, evaluating and disseminating the group as a model for national practice

Studio House: The treatment of alcohol dependence by total abstinence: the experience of residents at Studio House, Nottingham

University of Sheffield: Enhancing a brief online intervention to reduce alcohol consumption





Throughout 2016/17, we have continued to support key sources of research dissemination and excellence as we know that through shared ambition and resources we can make a real difference in developing new and pioneering research that has a positive impact on individuals, communities and society.

Partnerships

Alcohol Policy UK

We are the sole funders of the Alcohol Policy UK blog. This online resource is a wellestablished hub for the latest developments in both alcohol research and policy. Through the website and Twitter feeds, it provides an essential digest of, and commentary on, research outputs, policy reports, news stories and survey data as and when they emerge. We are proud to have been able to ensure that this key resource continues to provide insights across the research and practice community.



Alcohol Research UK's support has allowed Alcohol Policy UK to run consistently as an independent news and analysis blog for the alcohol field. Without this support this widely used resource would not have been possible to sustain.

James Morris Editor, Alcohol Policy UK

Alcohol Policy UK

The Alcohol Research Grapevine

Alcohol Research UK, together with the Institute of Alcohol Studies, has developed an online service for people in the alcohol research field to create personal profiles, share research materials and establish collaborations.







Drug & Alcohol Findings

With the Society for the Study of Addiction, we co-fund Drug and Alcohol Findings. This provides the most extensive library of research summaries for the alcohol and drug treatment field in the world, and its resources are accessed by thousands of readers every month. Drug and Alcohol Findings has an established, international reputation as an essential resource for both keeping abreast of latest developments on the drug and alcohol field, but also placing recent research into a longer historical context.

We also fund a free online course in alcohol treatment developed by Drug and Alcohol Findings called the Alcohol Matrix. This course provides practitioners with a step-by-step guide through the key research, trials and evaluations in treatment, interventions and alcohol harm prevention.



Alcohol Research UK's support has enabled the usage of our site to grow to a fifth of a million reads of our analyses every month, a major contribution to extending evidence-based knowledge and practice.

Mike Ashton Editor, Drug and Alcohol Findings



Drugwise

Alcohol Research UK is also a supporter of DrugWise and the DS Daily websites. Building on resources initially developed by DrugScope, DS Daily is also established as a key resource for people in the alcohol and drug fields wanting to keep abreast of the latest research and policy developments.

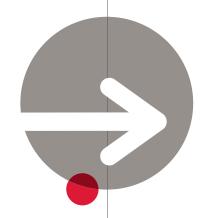
Supporting networks

As well as running our own events, we also sponsor external events and networks which further the aims of our programmes. In 2016, we supported networks around addiction theory and addiction and the family; and sponsored symposia and conferences including annual events from the Medical Council on Alcohol and the Kettil Bruun Society.

Another example of this is a grant issued to Manchester Metropolitan University for a conference entitled 'Recoverism and the Arts: driving change through collaborative research', which was organised by Dr Lucy Webb in collaboration with the Substance Use and Addictive Behaviours (SUAB) Group, Arts and Health Research Groups at Manchester Metropolitan University and Portraits of Recovery Charity. The event brought together researchers, people in recovery and practitioners to showcase the impact engagement with art can have on personal and cultural wellbeing; establish alternative platforms for voice; promote inclusivity; provoke creative dialogue between people in recovery, practitioners and commissioners; and, explore the role of researchers in supporting innovative recovery movements.

The event was well-attended and highlighted the overlapping interests of arts and health in recovery from problematic substance use. A key learning from the event will inform both Portraits of Recovery (PORe) and UNSEEN, presentation of recovery among minority groups, in their showcasing at public exhibitions at Manchester Pride, the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester and Home and Touchstones Gallery in Rochdale.

Furthermore, MMU (Manchester School of Art) will be hosting the launch of the allparty parliamentary group on arts, health and wellbeing and evidence from the Recoverism Conference will be showcased to this group.





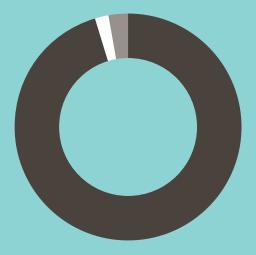




Managing our finances & research investments

Financial Summary for the year 2016/17

ALCOHOL RESEARCH UK 2016/17 INCOME



Investment Income

£503,814

Income from charitable activities

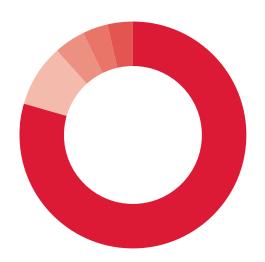
£13,500

Donations and legacies

£11,300

2016/17 EXPENDITURE

2016/17 GRANT EXPENDITURE





The financial summary provided in this review is subject to audit. Our full financial statement will be published online in November 2017 at www.alcoholresearchuk.org.

Charitable Activities (inc. Grants)

£1,106,146

Governance

£121,835

Investment management costs

£62,857

Other costs

£50,347

Cost of generating voluntary income

£47,423

Research Innovation Grants

£245,011

Research Studentships

£116,000

Small Grants

£81,805

Partnership grants

£42,500



Where we have funded our research in 2016/17

Our funding schemes for 2016/17 with number of grants awarded under each scheme.

Research Innovation Grant

Our Research Innovation Grants programme provides up to £60,000 for large research projects that address our core priorities and principles and have demonstrable potential to influence knowledge, policy or practice. Our research priority for 2016/17 was 'Treatment and Recovery Today'.

Small Project Grant

Our Small Grants programme provides up to £7,500 for small exploratory projects lasting up to 12 months. These include pilot intervention studies, qualitative social research projects, evaluations, scoping projects, proof-of-concept studies and lab experiments.

Network support

Our Network Support scheme is designed to help researchers build networks and share their findings with colleagues. This includes funding for existing and new cross-institutional networks and conference support for partner organisations who share our goal of alcohol harm reduction. Through this fund, we also provide grants for individual researchers to enable them to deliver papers at conferences, meetings or other research events which support our work.

Taught course bursaries/ Professional development Our Taught Course Studentship and Continuing Professional Development funds provide financial support for professionals and committed volunteers to develop their skills and knowledge in alcohol studies and related disciplines.

Research Studentships Through our Research Studentship scheme, we provide a three-year bursary which is match funded by a host university to enable students to undertake research in the alcohol field leading to a PhD. This scheme enables us to support the next generation of alcohol researchers and encourage new and innovative thinking in the field.

Partnership Grant We support specific partner organisations that contribute to our core goals, especially the translation of research into policy and practice.



Our charity is governed by a board of trustees, including senior people from academia, business, the voluntary sector and public agencies. They bring a wide range of skills and knowledge in areas including scientific research, service provision, finance, charity governance, media and communications, fundraising and organisational management.

Our Board of Trustees

Chair

Professor Alan Maryon-Davis

Alan is honorary professor of public health at King's College London.

Vice-Chair

Ms Annette Fleming

Annette is Chief Executive Officer of Aquarius, a charity providing alcohol, drug and gambling services.

Treasurer

Ms Valerie Jolliffe

Valerie spent ten years in corporate finance in the City and currently manages a university seedcorn fund and a number of EIS funds.

Ms Helen Boaden

Helen has had a long and distinguished career at the BBC in news and current affairs, and radio. She retired from her most recent role as BBC Director of Radio in early 2017. She was a Spring term Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School and is on the Council of the Royal Academy of Arts.

Dr Michael Cross (left in December 2016) Michael is Chair and Co-founder of Rezatec Ltd; Trustee, Villiers Park Educational Trust; Board member, Enterprise Board, University College London; and Regent, University of Edinburgh.

Professor Sally Dibb

Sally is Professor of Marketing and Society in the Centre for Business in Society at Coventry University. She is also Visiting Professor at the Open University.

Dr Emily Finch (joined April 2017)
Emily is the clinical director for the
Addictions Clinical Academic Group.

Professor Jane Frecknall-Hughes

Jane is currently Professor of Accounting and Taxation at Nottingham University Business School.

Dr Sarah Galvani

Sarah is Professor of Adult Social Care, Manchester Metropolitan University.

Mr Gareth Harkin (joined July 2016) Gareth leads the Client Services Team at Chelsea Football Club.

Professor Derek Heim

Derek is a Professor of Psychology at Edge Hill University. He is also Editor-in-Chief of Addiction Research and Theory.

Mr Peter Holland (joined April 2017) Peter is the Chief Executive of the Office for Public Management Group.

Professor John Underwood

John is Director of the Centre for Health Communication Research at Bucks New University and a director of Freshwater UK, a communications consultancy and media group.

Our Associates

We provide research grants to develop understanding and effectiveness in the alcohol harm reduction field. Our grants programme is overseen by an independent Grants Advisory Panel, consisting of independent experts from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds.

Robust and straightforward governance, including our procedures around conflict of interest, ensure the integrity of discussions around funding.

Grants Advisory Panel (up to April 2016)

Professor Derek Heim (Trustee & Chair -Advisory role only), Edge Hill University

Professor Alan Maryon-Davis (Trustee – Advisory role only), King's College London

Dr Tina Alwyn, Cardiff School of Health Sciences

Dr Katie Haighton, Newcastle University

Dr John Holmes, University of Sheffield

Dr Bev John, University of Glamorgan

Mr Charlie Lloyd, University of York

Professor Jim McCambridge, University of York

Mr Trevor McCarthy, Independent Addictions Consultant and Trainer

Professor Simon Murphy, Cardiff University

Dr Bruce Ritson, Retired Consultant Psychiatrist

Dr Leslie Smith, Oxford Brookes University

Ms Martine Stead, Stirling University

Professor Betsy Thom, Middlesex University

Grants Advisory Panel (from April 2016)

Professor Alan Maryon-Davis (Trustee & Chair - Advisory role only), King's College London

Professor Derek Heim (Trustee - Advisory role only), Edge Hill University

Ms Claire Brown, Editor of Drink and Drug News

Professor Simon Coulton, University of Kent

Dr Matt Egan, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Dr Carol Emslie, Glasgow Caledonian University

Dr Qulsom Fazil, University of Birmingham

Professor Matt Field, University of Liverpool

Professor Liz Gilchrist, University of Worcester

Mr Ian Hamilton, University of York

Dr John Holmes, University of Sheffield

Professor Elizabeth Hughes, University of Huddersfield

Dr Vittal Katikireddi, University of Glasgow

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Professor Dorothy Newbury-Birch, Teesside University

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Our Staff

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Director of Research and Policy Development

Vivek Obheegadoo

Finance Manager

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Andrea Tilouche

Director of Grants and Programmes

We were also delighted to welcome colleagues from Alcohol Concern who joined Alcohol Research UK in April 2017.

Lauren Booker

External Consultant

Nusha Haghpanah

Communications and Public Affairs Assistant

Mark Leyshon

Senior Policy and Research Officer at Alcohol Concern Cymru

Laura McLeod

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