

# 31 crack houses identified in one area of Tallaght

Repeated calls have been made for additional resources to support projects

By Mary Dennehy

mary@echo.ie

THE Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force is commissioning a review into the changing landscape of substance misuse, with particular focus on the impact of crack cocaine on local communities.

A rise in the use of crack cocaine has been branded a 'public health crisis' by the task force, which confirmed that 31 crack houses have been identified across one area of Tallaght alone.

In recent years, drug projects in Tallaght have been highlighting the changing drug culture in communities, particularly in relation to crack cocaine and poly drug use.

Repeated calls have been made for additional resources to support projects in responding to emerging needs.

However, despite a rise in crack cocaine use and the 'chaos' it creates in homes and communities, no additional resources have been allocated.

"We know that the drug culture has hugely changed, especially in the last 10 years," Grace Hill, TDATF co-ordinator told *The Echo*.

"The number one issue is crack cocaine and the related issues that impact families, and we're talking children here and future generations.

"If you take Tallaght alone, there's been a huge change in population, deprivation and drug culture.

"People are presenting to projects with poly-drug use [using a number of substances i.e., methadone, alcohol, crack cocaine]."

According to Ms Hill, those working on the ground do not believe the Government or HSE are leading programmes that reflect these changes.

"[The rise in crack cocaine use] is a public health crisis, which has serious impacts on families", she said.

"Crack cocaine use involves much more in a day than heroin.

"People are using more, buying more and building up more debt.

"The level of chaos in people's lives is huge."

According to Ms Hill, local drug projects are, for the first time, facing the introduction of waiting lists for services.

"I don't want to be alarmist, but [crack cocaine] is growing at an alarming rate", Ms Hill said.

"This is an emergency issue... we need a dedicated crack cocaine programme."

Drug projects in Tallaght have responded to the best of their ability to the rise in crack cocaine use.

However, there is no full-time crack cocaine programme with projects struggling to deliver



REVIEW: Grace Hill, TDATF co-ordinator

existing services while responding to emerging needs, with no extra funding.

"I'm so proud of the projects and the work that they do on the frontline... and this was recognised when they continued to work throughout the pandemic," Ms Hill said.

"However, they're not been funded as essential services and that's the reality.

"It's been 13 years since there's been any increase in funding to drug task forces."

According to TDATF, there has been a steady rise in crack cocaine use in communities, trends that have been confirmed by the communities and projects it works with.

According to Ms Hill, JADD [Jobstown Assisting Drug Dependency], for example, has identified 31 crack houses across the area of Jobstown and surrounding communities.

Since January 2021, 300 people have presented to JADD for crack cocaine services.

Of the 590 clients attending JADD's harm reduction service – a needle exchange programme, which includes sterile crack pipes – more than 50 per cent (300) avail of crack pipes.

Some 68 per cent of clients on JADD's methadone programme are also using crack cocaine.

"We have decided to

commission research into the changing drug culture, we're going to step back and let the data speak for itself," Ms Hill said.

"We hope to have some recommendations ready for September, and they can feed into the Budget in October.

"This is not just about the HSE, we need a multi-agency approach."

When contacted by *The Echo*, a spokesperson for the HSE said:

"The HSE has been aware for some time about the emergence of crack cocaine as a problem in certain areas and have been producing resources to support

other areas where the use of crack cocaine has emerged as an issue."

The HSE is aware of the research being conducted by the TDATF, which is currently at tender application stage.

The HSE said that the research will 'help inform local responses'.

For local supports visit [www.tallaghtdatf.ie](http://www.tallaghtdatf.ie).

To apply to undertake the research into the changing drug landscape can call Grace Hill on 4649303 or email [grace.hill@sdccpartnership.ie](mailto:grace.hill@sdccpartnership.ie).

The closing date for applications is Monday, May 17.

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas South Dublin County Council

## ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PIPERSTOWN ROAD (L7422)

To facilitate essential road repair works, South Dublin County Council has made an order to temporarily close Piperstown Road (L7422), from Monday 31st May 2021 to Wednesday 2nd June 2021 from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

### Alternative Routes:

Via Newtown Lane L7381.  
• Glassamucky Road L7239.  
Local access will be maintained.  
Detour signs will be erected.

Web: [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie)



## Echoopinion...

### Animal Welfare

WITH recent reports of violent attacks on swans and teenagers buying ducklings from street sellers, the public is reminded of the importance of animal welfare and prevention of cruelty to animals.

In this week's *Echo*, it is reported that the DSPCA are caring for over 20 surrendered ducklings at its shelter, and Clondalkin Animal said they have collected 50 ducklings, after teenagers had bought them as part of a growing trend.

This reckless and cruel trend puts the lives of vulnerable animals at risk and highlights the bigger topic of cruelty to animals that unfortunately we have seen in recent months.

Just last week, it was reported that youths have been attacking nesting swans, in an attempt to break the female's eggs and anger the swans.

This is unfortunately another extreme example of animal cruelty that has been taking place in our local areas.

All animals should be treated humanely, responsibly, and with respect. On the back of these horrific incidents, parents should sit down and speak to their children, teenagers and young adults about the importance of animal welfare and to remind them that these incidences are in no way acceptable or tolerated, and if they see or hear of anything they think is harmful to animals they should report it to someone.

Members of the public are encouraged to contact the DSPCA on 01 4994700 or through their Facebook page or website, [www.dspca.ie](http://www.dspca.ie).

### Man charged in hit-and-run incident

A MAN has been charged in relation to a hit-and-run incident, in which the victim was treated for non-life threatening injuries in Tallaght University Hospital, reports Hayden Moore.

Emergency services responded to a traffic collision between a man in his early-20s, who *The Echo* understands was driving an electric scooter, and a car on the Cheeverstown Road, in Tallaght. In a statement to *The Echo* in relation the incident which occurred on April 28, a spokesperson for An Garda Síochána said: "One male aged in his early 20s was injured in the course of this incident and was conveyed to Tallaght University hospital for treatment of his injuries which were non-life threatening in nature."

"The vehicle involved failed to remain at the scene. "One man aged in his mid-30s was arrested and charged in relation to this incident and appeared before Tallaght District Court yesterday, Monday, the 10th of May 2021.

"An Garda Síochána cannot comment on court outcomes."

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas  
South Dublin County Council

## ROADS ACT 1993, SECTION 75 TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CRUAGH ROAD

To facilitate essential road repair works, South Dublin County Council has made an order to temporarily close Cruagh Road, from Monday 24th May 2021 to Friday 28th May 2021 from 9.30am to 4.00pm.

### Alternative Routes:

Via R116 Edmondstown Road.  
• L4026 Mount Venus Road  
• R115 Killakee Road.  
Local access will be maintained.  
Detour signs will be erected.

Web: [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie)



READ IT  
BELIEVE IT

THE **Echo**

Real Local News

news@echo.ie 01-468 5350

“People are using more, buying more and building up more debt. The level of chaos in people's lives is huge