



## Lived experience advisory group (LEAG)

Adfam was founded in 1984 by the parent of a heroin user who could not find the support they needed. Over the past 35 years, Adfam has evolved from a small support group into the leading national charity supporting, and working with, families affected by someone else's drug and alcohol misuse. We have a voice in the national debate on issues touching tens of thousands of people in the UK, as well as in enabling essential day-to-day support via our forums, projects and on-line presence.

Family members have always been at the heart of our organisational mission and purpose, and one of our core values. **We now want to formalise this principle, incorporating it into our governance structure, by recruiting individuals to join a new advisory group of family members with experience of being affected by a loved one's substance misuse.**

**Katie Parrett**, a Trustee with lived experience of a brother with a heroin problem, will be the chair of the Group. You can read Katie's story on <https://adfam.org.uk/our-work/supporting-families/katie'sstory>

**The overall purpose** of the lived experience advisory group is to provide advice, guidance and evidence to inform the Board of Trustees' strategic decision-making and Adfam's operational activities.

**As a member of the LEAG you will:** respond to requests from the Adfam Board for information – the Board meets four times per year, and supply your views and experiences to Adfam's staff team, on an ad hoc basis. For example, we would like to hear what you think of our future plans, what you think are the key issues we should be focusing on for our research and activities, and our campaigning and influencing work. We may approach you to speak at our events and conferences, or accompany a team member to a meeting with a politician, or with Government officials.

Your views will largely be collected via telephone and email, although we plan to hold one meeting per year for which travel expenses will be reimbursed.

We are keen to ensure we have as diverse a LEAG as possible, with representation from across England, and from a range of experiences, and of relationship with the family member with a substance misuse problem.

If you would like to be considered to join the LEAG please send a brief summary of your story and your interest in Adfam to [o.amin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:o.amin@adfam.org.uk)

The closing date is March 13<sup>th</sup>

For more information about Adfam please visit [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

## **About us: our vision, mission and values**

Adfam is the national charity working to improve life for children and families affected by drugs or alcohol.

### **Our vision**

We want anyone affected by someone else's drug or alcohol use to have the chance to benefit from healthy relationships, be part of a loving and supportive family and enjoy mental and physical wellbeing.

### **Our mission**

Drugs and alcohol use can threaten and ultimately destroy family relationships and wellbeing. We **empower** family members and carers, **support** frontline workers and **influence** decision-makers to stop this happening.

### **What we value**

We listen to families and frontline workers

We know that people who face challenges often also have answers. So what we do is informed by our supporters: using compassion and evidence we inform, support and empower both people affected by a loved one's substance misuse and the workers who support them. We build skills, resources, confidence and pathways so both groups can help themselves, their peers, clients and communities.

### **We're driven by what works**

The impact of substance use on family relationships and wellbeing is both profound and varied. We approach our work with care and close attention to what works in the real world. To do this we embrace evidence in all its diversity, never underestimating the value of real-life experience as well as formal research evidence. Our work is driven by our friends, supporters and colleagues and what they tell us works.

### **We're serious about our mission**

We are serious about our work, and our partnerships, and committed to delivering them to the highest quality. We know that prejudice and stigma are barriers to recovery and cause harm, and we promise to treat individuals and families affected by drugs and alcohol with respect and dignity. We want to see a society free from stigma towards drug and alcohol users and their families, and will fight until it exists.

**We work with:**

**Families, including children, friends and carers**

We inform and empower those affected by another's substance use and amplify their voices to ensure they have a stake in the issues that affect them.

**Frontline workers**

We build the confidence, capacity and capability of practitioners to ensure the support they deliver is effective and appropriate.

**Decision-makers**

We engage and influence key national and local decision-makers to shape policy and ensure they understand the issues the families we work with face every day.