11 November 2026

To the Glasgow City Integration Joint Board

We are a group of people with living and lived experience of drug use. We are writing to you because we object to £2 million of funding being taken away from services we depend on to stay alive. We have a right to be heard when decisions are made that affect our lives – and that right is not being upheld.

People with living and lived experience of drug use were not consulted about the huge cuts being made to the Enhanced Drug Treatment and Complex Needs services. Decisions that could have a devastating impact on our lives are being made without asking us what we think, what we need or what these services mean to us.

Finding a service that's right for you, and keeping going to that service, can be difficult. But when you do find somewhere that works, it can be a lifeline. It gives you somewhere to go, routine and stability. Staff get to know you, recognise when things are changing and help you keep moving forward. You feel valued, your confidence grows and you have a sense of achievement.

In the midst of a public health emergency, the services we trust and rely on must be protected.

The Enhanced Drug Treatment and Complex Needs services support people who have not been able to get the help they need elsewhere. They are often the people with the most complex needs and the fewest places to turn. If these services are cut, what will happen to them?

One of our group has been using the Enhanced Drug Treatment service for two years. He told us:

> **“The service is for people like me, who haven't been able to get the help they need from other services. I was still going out and using heroin all the time. I'd had a couple of overdoses. I felt like I was at the end of the road.**
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> **“Instead of having to buy heroin on the street, I now get diamorphine in a clinic, where it's safer. It's worked for me. I haven't bought drugs on the street for over a year. It shows that this service can make a real difference.”**

We are writing this letter on 11 November. He found out about the proposals yesterday, 48 days after your plans were reported in the newspaper. He heard about them through someone he knows. We think this is shameful. It makes us feel unimportant, as though our views, experiences and expertise don't matter.

We understand that services may need to evolve, but that can’t happen with fewer resources. And they certainly can’t be redesigned without the involvement of the people who rely on them. Our experience and knowledge matter.

The proposed changes – and the way you have made and communicated your decision – go against the rights set out in the Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use, including the right to life and the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

We are calling on you, Glasgow City Integration Joint Board, to listen to the people who use these services, reconsider the £2 million of cuts, and protect the support that we depend on.

But our message is not just for you. We want all of Scotland's decisionmakers, including the Scottish Government, to hear us:

- **Saving money cannot come at the expense of our lives.** Scotland says it wants to do something about drug-related deaths. How can that happen if services that help keep people alive are being cut?
- **People who rely on services must have a say in decisions about their future.** Lasting, meaningful change will only happen when people with the deepest understanding of an issue are central to shaping solutions.

Before these cuts were announced, none of us had even heard of Integration Joint Boards. We don't know you and you don't know us, but you are making decisions that have a direct impact on our lives. That has to change.

With determination,

- **C, a client of the Enhanced Drug Treatment service**
- **Members of the Scottish Drugs Forum National Living Experience Engagement Group**
- **Buzz Magazine Peer Editorial Board**