

# Promoting community naloxone provision; utilising people with lived experience to address Drug Related Deaths

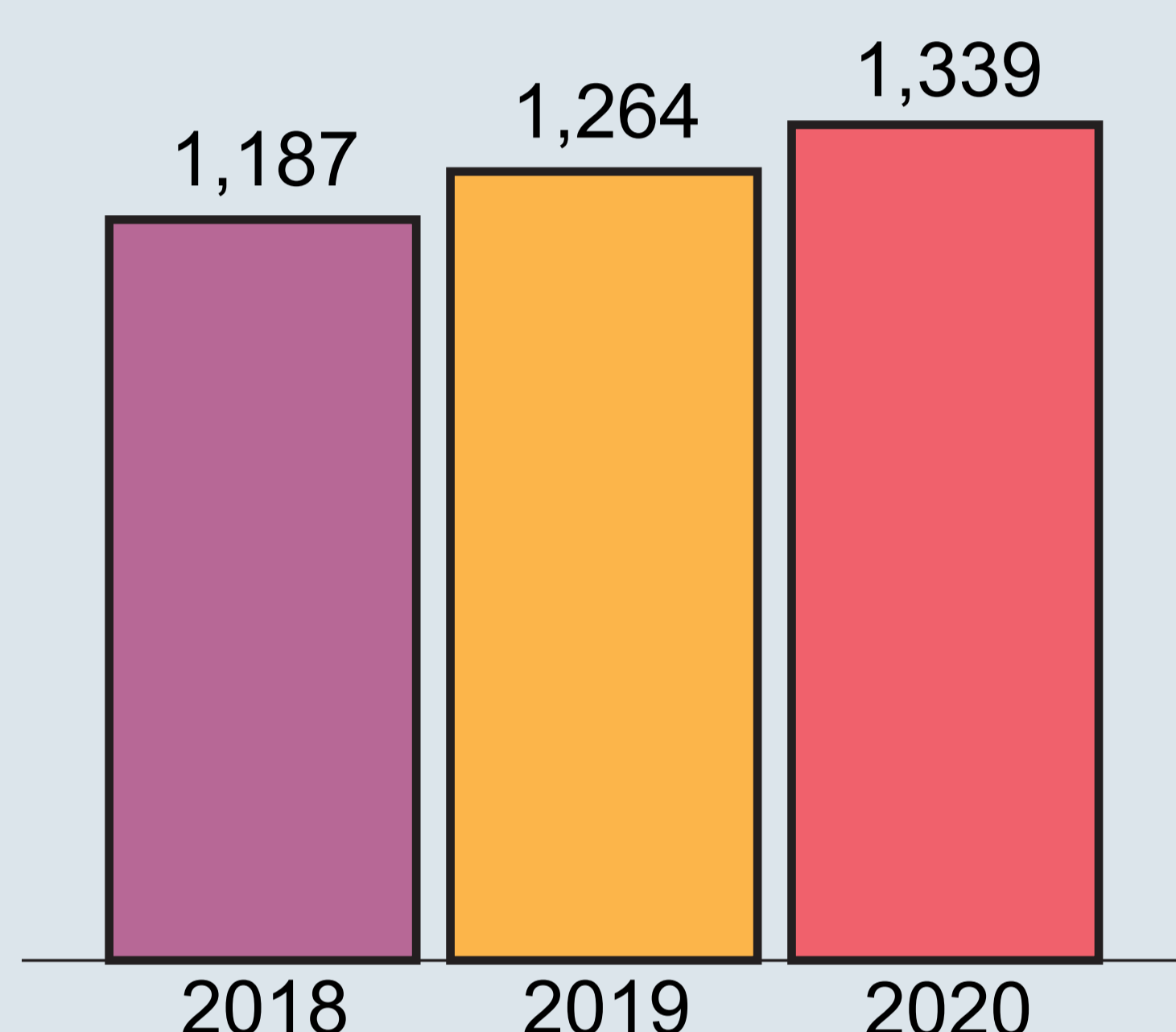
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## BACKGROUND

Dundee has one of the highest Drug Related Death (DRD) rates in Europe (proportional to population).

Scotland recorded 1,339 DRDs in 2020. With harm reduction services more difficult to access as a consequence of Covid-19 restrictions, the benefits of community naloxone provision was recognised.



Scottish Drug Related Deaths 2018-20

The Scottish Government's Drug Death Task Force recommended a national peer support programme to be implemented.

In response, the Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) received funding to deliver a peer naloxone initiative across Scotland, with Dundee as a pilot site, with the aim of promoting and delivering peer supply of naloxone as a core service across the region.

People with lived experience offer an alternative method of engagement to traditional, established pathways.

## MODEL OF CARE

Third-sector organisation; Hillcrest Futures (HF) employed five peers with lived experience to deliver a total of 40 hours per week, in Dundee.

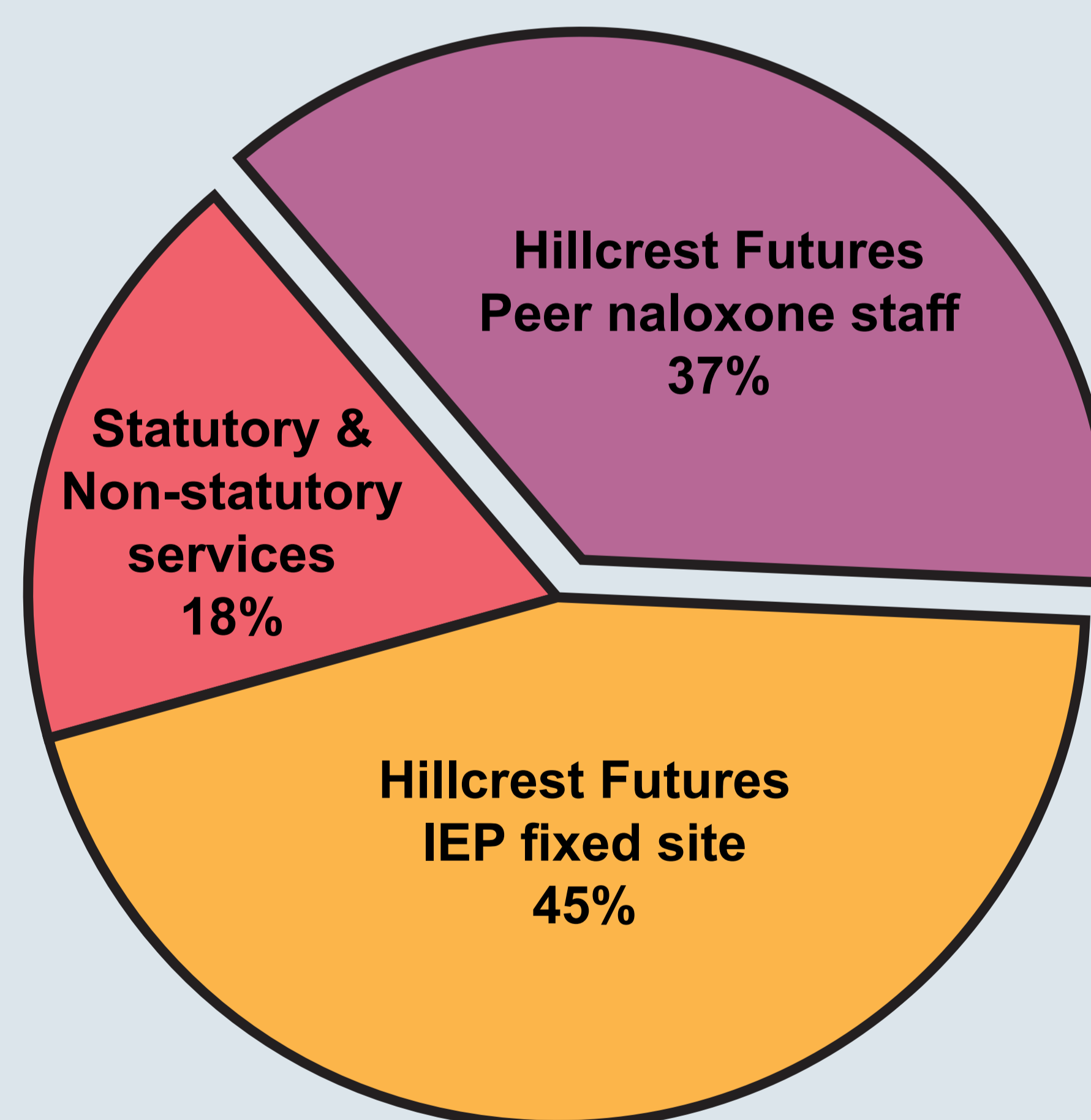
This enabled a wider demographic to be targeted via a variety of settings including temporary accommodation, shopping centres and community settings, allowing stigma to be challenged.

Targeted interventions were predominantly delivered through assertive outreach, with peer workers embedded within the wider enhanced Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) service.

This promoted a collaborative response in conjunction with an NHS nurse-led specialist harm reduction team.

## OUTCOMES

2,018 naloxone kits were provided in Dundee between April 2021 – April 2022. Peer supplies exceeded all expectations and resulted in double the combined efforts of all other statutory and non-statutory services.



Hillcrest Futures  
Peer naloxone staff:  
737 (37%)

Hillcrest Futures  
IEP fixed site:  
918 (45%)

Statutory &  
Non-statutory services:  
367 (18%)

## CONCLUSIONS

The peer model dramatically increased naloxone provision in Dundee through community based outreach.

People with lived experience can form meaningful connections with those with living experience and can be valued as a credible resource. This in turn can result in harm reduction initiatives, including naloxone provision being better received.

Peers have fed back multiple benefits such as; career progression, sustained recovery and improved self-efficacy.