

## Alcohol and Families Alliance

### Terms of Reference 2018

#### **1. Background**

The Alcohol and Families Alliance (AFA) was created in 2013 by a partnership of Alcohol Concern and Adfam. Its running has been supported since 2016 by the the Institute of Alcohol Studies (IAS). Adfam provides the secretariat support (arranging meetings, drafting policy materials and newsletters etc).

#### **2. Purpose**

The AFA exists to reduce the harms experienced by children and families affected by alcohol use. It does this by bringing together organisations and individuals from both the alcohol and children/families sector to examine and formulate new policy positions. These are used as the basis for strategic policy and influencing work carried out by AFA steering group members. The AFA also commissions/carries out specific pieces of work to support its mission.

#### **3. Principles**

The Alliance believes that:

- Current policy does not sufficiently protect children and families from alcohol-related harms
- The misuse of alcohol can have serious, and detrimental effects on the health and wellbeing of children and families
- The negative effects of alcohol on children and families are not necessarily confined to those incurred by drinkers who drink at hazardous, harmful or dependent levels
- We should encourage an open conversation about alcohol and its effects on families, that challenges stigma and stereotypes
- Families deserve help and support to understand the potential impact of alcohol on their family and relationships

#### **4. Membership**

Any relevant UK organisation or individual who agrees with our purpose and principles.

The AFA is non-partisan, evidence-driven and free from influence from the alcohol industry; the steering group reserves the right to refuse membership according to these values.

Joining is free. Members have the organisation's logo displayed on the AFA website and are invited to all AFA meetings.

Members are required to: share their expertise with the network, for instance through the newsletter and at meetings; act as a critical friend to the AFA and its members; and be an ambassador for the AFA in their day to day work.

Organisations or individuals outside the UK are welcome to join as associate members.

Associate members are welcome to attend meetings and join in networking, but are unable to shape the strategic direction or policy positions of the AFA.

#### **5. Observer status**

Interested parties which do not meet the description above (for instance representatives of government departments or Public Health England) are welcome to express an interest in attending meetings as observers. They do not have the right to shape the AFA's work.

#### **6. Meetings**

The AFA will meet twice a year in central London for a half-day. Meetings will include updates on the policy work, presentations from researchers or project managers and roundtable updates.

#### **7. Steering group**

The AFA is guided by a steering group which meets four times per year and which is open to all members of the AFA. It is made up of members as well as representatives of Adfam, which provides the secretariat support, and IAS. The steering group will guide the AFA's activities and shape its agenda, ensuring they meet its purpose.

#### **8. Capacity building**

Where possible the AFA will commit to capacity building activities with its members or other identified allies, for instance supporting community groups to carry out advocacy or media work with local decision-makers such as MPs, Policy and Crime Commissioners or Elected Members.