

UK Inclusive Recovery Cities

Newsletter # 1

Feb/Mar 2024

Welcome!

Welcome to the first newsletter of the UK Inclusive Recovery Cities network. In this launch issue, we will:

- Give an overview of our goals and aspirations;
- Introduce the leads from each of our current participating cities;
- Review our recent meeting in Blackpool
- Provide a focus on what is going on in participating cities/areas;
- Let you know about our international activities and finally,
- Tell you about our forthcoming events.

Overview of our aims and goals

While there are variations across the world in how the Inclusive Recovery Cities model is implemented, in the UK we have the following basic goals and aspirations:

- To celebrate recovery through acts of public engagement
- To raise awareness of recovery and through doing this:
- To challenge stigma and exclusion
- To share innovations and ideas
- To participate in national and international events and activities that promote and champion recovery at a community level
- Through doing this we want to show how our groups improve the lives of all of those who live in Inclusive Recovery Cities.

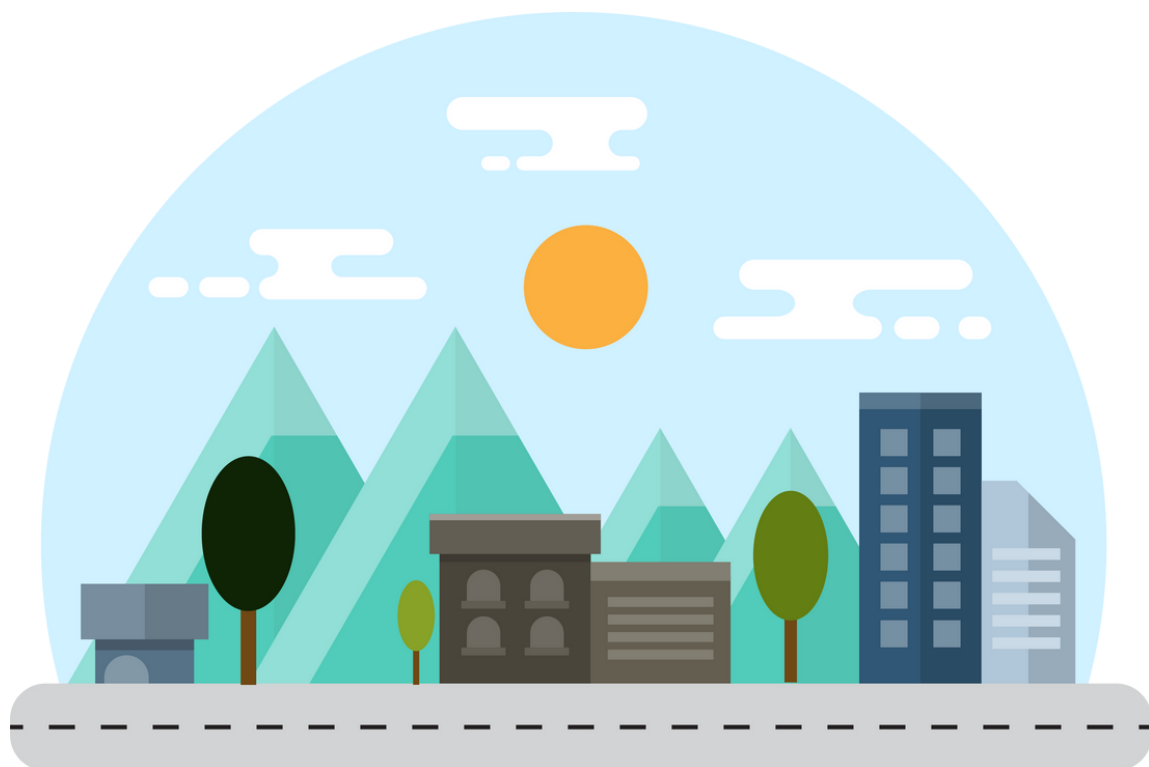


What is an Inclusive Recovery City?

Inclusive Recovery Cities are **peer-driven partnerships** that co-ordinate, communicate and celebrate **recovery activities, events and achievements**. The partnerships will involve multiple partners (including city councils, elected officials, treatment services and public health) but are ultimately driven by **Lived Experience Recovery Organisations** (LEROs) to generate events and activities that commemorate and celebrate recovery.

But two key points:

1. They are **inclusive** – and so should involve affected others, specialist treatment providers but crucially any member of the community who can benefit from positive events and activities
2. While we use the term 'city', this can refer to **any district or municipality** that can be a hub (or series of hubs) supporting and celebrating recovery.



Introducing our UK board



Professor David Best is the overall coordinator of the UK Inclusive Recovery Cities movement. He is based at Leeds Trinity University, where he is the Director of the Centre for Addiction Recovery Research (CARR) and is leading in efforts to evidence recovery as a social movement and a strengths-based social contagion of hope.



Middlesbrough - Dot Smith is the CEO of Recovery Connections, a lived experience recovery organisation founded in Middlesbrough. Dot recognises and champions that “Recovery isn’t just about our current physical or mental health, it’s about social happiness and independence, safety and security”. So, being able to create opportunities as part of an inclusive recovery city for people to get their lives back on track, stay well and thrive is vital.



York - Mark A. Green Though I should be heading towards retirement, I am not stopping now, as I found myself six years ago; I got well from a lifetime of addiction. My work is about supporting & empowering others that “anything is possible” and dreaming is not just allowed, it’s positively encouraged! People working together as a LERO can shape the whole community and help people to be their best version of themselves.

The days & issues are sometimes the toughest I have ever dealt with, but I know now I am never alone. I felt so alone for so long in my previous life. ‘ODAAT’...



Leeds – Sue Northcott Working for Humankind, I support services in North Yorkshire, Leeds and Bradford. I'm regional lead for Working Together, which some organisations call service-user involvement or co-production. I've worked for Humankind for over twenty years and am most proud of leading the West Yorkshire Fulfilling Lives Programme, WY-FI, which brought people together to share their lived experience, value that experience and to learn from it...and the legacy goes on.



Doncaster – Ben Goundry - I'm LERO lead for Project 6 based in sunny Doncaster, I came into this role after being a recovery worker for a while and before that a volunteer group worker. Before that I came to Project 6 for support for my own issues caused by my substance use. The work I do with the project and the organisation as a whole, gives me an opportunity to instil hope in others that there is a bright future possible in recovery. For this I'm most grateful and privileged, change is possible in all!



Birmingham – Jamie Sadler - I'm a founding member of DATUS Enabling Recovery and have led the charity for the last eighteen years. I struggled with addiction myself for many years, and for reasons that are not altogether clear to me, I managed to stop. I passionately believe that the key to getting the best outcomes for the most people is through peer-led services and lived experience. I truly hope that through peer-led services, we can change the way addiction is viewed by wider society and gradually stamp out the moral judgment and stigma that do so much harm.



Newcastle - Steve Wood - Steve is an integral member of Newcastle's recovery community. He is deeply passionate about using his lived experience of addiction as a tool in the support of others in their own recovery. He started out in Peer Support, and witnesses every day people's compassion, motivation and willingness to change not only themselves, but the community for the better..



Blackpool - Mike Crowther - I am leader of the amazing Empowerment Charity which works alongside our people in Blackpool and the Fylde Coast. The power of lived experience and co-production has changed everything for me. Learning all the time from my many mistakes and learning to trust the brilliant colleagues who surround me.



Nottingham - Eleanor Youdell - Since stopping using substances 25 years ago, I've been privileged to work in the recovery field, joining Double Impact in its early days. I'm interested in the role of creativity in recovery and am excited to see the 'sober movement' and 'recovery' become more mainstream at long last, through the flourishing of new online communities and alcohol-free social spaces.



Ghent - Evelien Lootens-Stael combines her background in Clinical Special Needs Education and Criminology with a strong commitment to understanding and aiding recovery processes. As a PhD researcher at the IRCP (Ghent University), under the main supervision of Professor Charlotte Colman, her current research focuses on the recovery and desistance trajectories of women in Belgium.

Blackpool meeting

On the 6th of February, Blackpool hosted the third meeting of the UK Inclusive Recovery Cities group at the Grange Community Centre in Blackpool. We were joined, either in person or online, by participants from Middlesbrough, Doncaster, York, Portsmouth, Southampton, Leeds, Nottingham and Doncaster.

It was an excellent meeting with lots of exciting innovations discussed, following a showcase of the work in Blackpool, and some key themes emerged:



- The importance of Lived Experience Leadership
- How important it is to have some kind of physical hub from which to coordinate recovery events and activities
- Linked to this, there needs to be visibility for the recovery community
- Sober Social events including club nights were seen as excellent ways of celebrating
- Links to housing and employment opportunities were seen as key



Welcome to our newest recruit... Birmingham!

DATUS is a Lived Experience Recovery Organisation working in Birmingham for the past 18 years.

Our first steps on our Inclusive Recovery Cities journey have been to develop our See Change (a bridge to the community) program to include it in IRC. See Change focuses on making meaningful and positive connections with our local community and is not time limited.

We aim to develop an unwritten social contract based on inclusion, aspiration, equality, and reciprocal benefit between the recovery community and the wider community across Birmingham.

All our partnerships are based on the principal of reciprocal altruism. Put simply this means an exchange of resources that benefits us as a recovery community as well as the partners and the wider community.

We also work to challenge stigma through positive relationships, make recovery visible and better understood, whilst building clear accessible pathways for future peers into the wider community. We also work to challenge stigma through positive relationships, make recovery visible and better understood, whilst building clear accessible pathways for future peers into the wider community.

The building of partnerships is a continuous process and our current list of partners include:

- Birmingham Nature and Wildlife Conservation Centre
- Lickey Hills Country Park Rangers
- Canal and Riverside Trust
- Fircroft College
- Birmingham Transport Museum
- Birmingham Allotment Association



Aligned with the aspirations of IRC our latest partnership with Fircroft College is based on the group supporting the college in developing and maintaining the beautiful grounds that were formerly the Cadbury family home



This site is a big part of the cultural heritage of Birmingham, and it is a privilege to be part of preserving it.

In return the college will put on bespoke courses for our attendees who feel more comfortable learning with friends and peers and hold one to one sessions with anyone who wishes to engage with adult education independently.



We look forward to sharing more detail about our existing community partners in upcoming newsletters and announcing new partners in the future.
Best wishes - DATUS.



Discovering Connections... in Middlesbrough



Discovering Connections is a project that adopts an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach to building community in the neighbourhood in Middlesbrough around our Bedford Street Recovery Centre and our social enterprises. The project is a one-year project, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund from the Know Your Neighbourhood monies. ABCD is a focus on what exists within communities and within individuals that they can use to grow community life and get the kind of life they want and a life of their choosing. It builds on what people have, and on their strengths, talents, gifts and assets. This is in perfect harmony with the approach that we take at Recovery Connections. It is a project that also builds on our Building Recovery in Middlesbrough (BRIM) work and our Recovery City status. We felt that the role of Community Builders was a perfect fit for people in recovery, as they understand the value of community and they recognise that people recover, and live their full potential, when supported and surrounded by others. They are strong advocates of community and the potential of community.

Community Builders build relationships with the local community through a breadth of interesting and creative community building approaches, including meeting people in key 'touching points' in the community and on community walkabout

Our aim is to find out what people's wishes and hopes for the community are; what are the things locally that we could do together using this local know-how; and to identify the local people who weave the community together. Our aim, as connectors and alongsiders, is to bring people in the community together.

When 'discovering' connections with local citizens, we have been able to support them in engaging and connecting with fellow citizens. One of the projects we supported was over 20 citizens coming together on a fortnightly basis to play board games. Again, the natural community building instinct of our staff in recovery has helped to create strong bonds within the broader community. The Community Builders have had hundreds of conversations with local residents since the project began in June 2023.

An aspect of the project that has developed we refer to as 'joining the dots'; as we have been able to connect a number of organisations with each other. There have been several key outcomes linked to this aspect of the project:

- Welcoming several people into our recovery centre who were not in treatment at the time of engagement;
- Liaising between different organisations to ensure food waste could be minimised and opportunities shared;
- Gifting the time of the Community Builders within other services to engage with small groups:
- Opened up new opportunities to promote and deliver Recovery Ally training;
- Widening and broadening the offer of Naloxone training;
- Engagement and trust building with one organisation which led to our Ambassadors being based there, as we discovered a need within that community to hear about recovery;
- Liaising with other charities to open opportunities of being provided by another charity who we were engaging with.



The opportunities that have been created have been through relationships – through building trust and through conversations. They have been community-led. These relationships were not rooted in 'needs' but used relationships as a starting point. Through an ABCD approach with citizens, and through developing and nurturing relationships with, and between citizens, we have been able to bring community members together through a shared interest and to help them grow community, develop relationships with others – and to discover new friendships. And through an approach of deeper and broader networking, with a focus on relationships, we have broadened our networks and connections.

The Discovering Connections project has provided another springboard from which we have been able to challenge stigma and discrimination by making recovery visible within Middlesbrough and through building allyship. A belief in community and a focus on relationship building has been at the heart of this project.

MEMBER UPDATES

York

At long last necessary participants in our city are beginning to commit to the project. The draft introduction document has been a game changer. Being able to give a written brief of what we are all aspiring to achieve has opened many doors for us in York.

-We are finalising the possession of a city-centre premises (on the riverside no less). It is an amazing central location with immense scope to grow into a complete new resource as a Recovery Hub.

-A 12-month-long research project in partnership with Converge at St John University is complete and will be published this year. It is titled "Understanding Peer Support At York In Recovery".

-The intention is to do a further piece of work with the Institute For Social Justice at St John University.

-Fruitful discussions have taken place with the Executive Member for health well-being & adult social care from York City Council as we seek formal support for a bid to become an Inclusive Recovery City

-Public Health York led by Peter Roderick are immensely supportive of all the recovery communities' efforts to build our LERO presence in York



-York In Recovery CIC sits on the York Drug & Alcohol Partnership Board as a permanent member.

-There will be a launch event/party for the opening of the new building

-We will be holding our annual summer Recovery Garden Party/BBQ

-We are racing in the York Dragon Boat Race in July

-Also, in July Change Grow Live will take over from Changing Lives as the provider of the (YDAS) York Drug & Alcohol Services provider contract. This will undoubtedly bring change for clients, staff, and the city in general.

-YIR participates in all major events throughout the year in York and hopes to use them all to promote Inclusive Recovery Cities as the next needed step for York.

Sheffield

Notable developments in Sheffield include:

April 2023: Sheffield DACT retained the services of Dr David Patton, Associate Professor in Criminology, Derby University to help support Sheffield Recovery Forum to help Sheffield gain Inclusive Recovery City Status. David produced a project plan which included the following outputs.

- Establish a Sheffield City IRC Council
- Create a Sheffield IRC Mission Statement
- Develop Communication Plan
- Monitoring and Evaluation options
- Undertake an asset mapping Survey
- Established Focus Groups and Task Groups
- Analysis of data
- To produce an annual Project Report



June 2023: Dr David Patton presented this proposal at the Combatting Drugs board, seeking strategic support and approval.

August 2023: The Sheffield Inclusive Cities Steering (SICS) group was established, based on guidance and recommendations from Ghent with plans to broaden membership to include more people with lived experience of recovery.

September 2023: Hosted a consultation at Project 6 about what people thought the Mission statement should include.

Women from the Sheffield Recovery Community participated in an International Women Research Photovoice project and have since joined the first-ever International Women Research network

December 2023: Sheffield Recovery Forum was part of a consortium of international towns and cities that created an Inclusive Recovery Advent Calendar for 2023.

January 2024: Saw the launch of one of the first inclusive cities Focus Groups, (communications) to help design and develop a new Recovery Website and a pocket book recovery guide.

February onwards 2024: Council members Policy: Kevin Jones (DACT) and Lived Experience Advocate: Riff Aziz (Humankind) are leading on developing links and consulting underrepresented groups in the city.

March – Tracey Ford has been invited as guest speaker to the 67th sessions of the UN’s Commission for Narcotic Drugs, to talk about Sheffield City Councils Commitment to support the development of Inclusive Cities and Sheffield Recovery Communities recent involvement in the women’s Photovoice research project, which will be exhibited as part for International Women’s Day on 8th March.

Other plans :

Like our Leeds counterparts, we are also looking to launch ‘Recovery Roadshows’- where people in recovery reach out to professionals and services, to talk about their own recovery journey and break down the stigma that can be associated with addiction.

There are also plans to develop and roll out Recovery Ally training (based on Middlesbrough’s) to people in communities which will also include a public awareness campaign whereby members of the public can sign up to support the inclusive cities charter.



Nottingham

Following December's (very festive) meeting, we were really pleased to have the chance to discuss with local commissioners how to take Nottingham's bid to become an IRC forward.

-We were invited to give a briefing at the local Substance Use Strategic Partnership meeting, as commissioners viewed it as aligning with/ contributing to the 'Inclusive Recovery' aspect of the local delivery plan.

-We are hopeful that this might lead to a post to lead and drive the IRC initiative forward for a 12-month period.

There is a big push on within the commissioned Community Rehab programme to expand existing links to community assets, so there will be more to report on soon.



We also have plans to participate in an event with the Nottingham Recovery Network IPS Lead (employment) and Changing Futures (Severe & Multiple Disadvantage) aimed at local employers.

Café Sobar continues to provide a 'high street presence' for Recovery, hosting regular fellowship meetings and a new timetable of groups and activities (since Oct '23) in the new 'Sobar Safe Space', part of a newly-commissioned 'Community Rehab model' within the Nottingham Recovery Network (NRN), a partnership Double Impact are members of.

This represents a physical and metaphorical shift of recovery support, from being primarily service-based to more community-based, and the aspiration is that more people will become integrated into the (recovery) community at a much earlier stage.



Doncaster

First and foremost, we ran our first ever sober night disco, 70's 80's and 90's party, great attendance, and a groovy vibe! I'd love to leave the update there, but I won't 😊

So, what else have we been up to at Project 6 Doncaster LERO?? We have been active in the community, running events and building connections over the last few months. We have so far run four sessions of a 'Hub' in the Frenchgate Shopping Centre; engaging the public in conversations about life in Doncaster.

We used the same creative methods demonstrated at the CDP meeting last October (problem solving booth, community reporting, and our giant question mark!). This resulted in over 90 interactions and a lot of trust established with a cross-section of the town centre community.

Partnership working with Aspire Doncaster's primary treatment provider has begun with the LERO team running recovery taster group sessions every 6 weeks to strengthen the pathway for people.

We have continued our partnership working with Age UK, with built a link with Encouraging Potential and Inspiring Change (EPIC), a safe space for 9-19-year-olds; exploring offering support to parents and care givers struggling with substance use issues.



The LERO team are planning a 'Community Connector' event at Project 6 for local frontline staff and stakeholders. Stronger links have been made with Doncaster Probation Service; presenting at their regional team meeting, which immediately resulted in referrals into Sober Social.

As we now regularly attend CDP meetings, we are working on a strategy together with the LERO team that aims to work with people engaged in treatment after release from prison – improving engagement of people before they leave prison and ensuring better continuity of care in the community.

Middlesbrough

March's Marvellous Ambassadors

During the first two years of the Building Recovery in Middlesbrough project, there was a key focus on building links outside of the local Recovery Community. This included hosting and inviting people to events, and visiting businesses and workplaces to develop an understanding of network needs.

And this longterm groundwork has really started to pay off. On the back of the links created within Middlesbrough, three Recovery Connections Ambassadors now provide voluntary support at Middlesbrough's James Cook University Hospital, within the Alcohol Care Team.

Working alongside staff, the Ambassadors deliver Lived Experience support to patients, opening up potential pathways into Recovery support, and providing a unique perspective that works alongside patient care delivered by on-site clinical teams.

The staff at James Cook have been overwhelmed by the impact of the Ambassadors' work, and are keen to promote the partnership between services publicly as we head into Spring.

Outside of core working hours, the Middlesbrough Sober Social events, every other Thursday, are now being attended by more people than ever, with several other charities bringing Community members along for the fortnightly fun.

And a second regular Community event has been added to the calendar, with a monthly Celebration of Recovery taking place within the charity's social enterprise buildings. This has provided an opportunity for anyone within the BRIM network to attend, share information on services, and join us in a regular catchup on activities.



A feature of each event is that we honour the Ambassadors who have gone above and beyond in their work over the last month. At the first event, Colin, Jenni and Natasha (pictured) received awards for Most Voluntary Hours Worked, Going Above & Beyond, and Ambassador of the Month.

Newcastle

We are in early discussions about establishing Newcastle as a recovery city facilitated by a new LERO coordinator based at ReCoCo, The Recovery College. That person is myself!

I am fortunate to be a part of Newcastle's recovery community. It has given me the confidence to firstly work in Peer Support, to now utilise and enhance the positivity and enthusiasm that already exists within the community.

- There has been a wide buy in from the sector, with our LERO collective meetings already proving fruitful in bringing together key stakeholders to discuss developments and strengthen links.
- A Community Asset Mapping research project has identified over 160 services and groups aiding the recovery community. This research is allowing us to provide a comprehensive yet easy to navigate online map, showcasing the wide range of support available in Newcastle.
- Ongoing open and honest discussions with these services and organisations have enabled us to identify, and thus aim to resolve, any issues that may have been preventing us from working together in an efficient manner. Conversations are changing and voices are being heard.
- 'STEP INTO THE LIGHT' is a recovery anthology that has recently been launched and rightly celebrated. A creative process undertaken by the recovery community, we are truly proud to showcase the words and reflections of those with lived experience.



- Creating an independent, peer led and delivered forum to support involvement, engagement, participation and recovery led training.
- We are tackling stigma associated with drug and alcohol use and services through a stigma animation. It is designed as an education package and will be used as part of training for staff. This has been done with the input of the recovery community, aiming to also increase understanding and awareness of the wider public.
- There has been an increase in mutual aid groups that cater for different perspectives. There is more than one pathway to successful recovery. These groups not only occur in the community, but in structured treatment and in a recovery college setting.
- We are committed to providing Recovery Coach and wider training to support those in and out of treatment. Peer Support is expanding. Volunteering and employment pathways are becoming more accessible, emphasising the importance of lived experience in all that we provide. I, and many others, would bear testament to that.

Leeds

We've had really great feedback for the advent calendar posted daily during December on our Recovery WRX website. Building on this success we have started to explore the development of an interactive recovery map for Leeds. It will show the locations of key recovery services, peer groups and social events.

We have confirmed that our existing web tools can support the functionality of the map. Our next step is to meet with people in recovery to talk about what they would like included on the map. We're thinking categories would be restaurants with no alcohol and sober day/night activities.



We have held informal chats and a recovery planning morning to discuss what the 5 Ways Recovery Centre is for, what else it could offer and to plan a calendar of events of 2024. As trips and social events play a huge role in reducing social isolation, this year we're asking people to agree and organise events together.

In March, Forward Leeds is holding the Art of Working Together' event at the Leeds Playhouse, exhibiting artwork produced by people from the Forward Leeds and 5 Ways service.



The facilitated part of the event will allow people to have their say on how the service is run, how they can inform treatment and promote recovery in Leeds. The Forward Leeds and 5 Ways service. The facilitated part of the event will allow people to have their say on how the service is run and how they can inform treatment and promote recovery in Leeds

We're re-launching the 'Recovery Roadshow'- where people in recovery reach out to professionals and services, to talk about their own recovery journey and break down the stigma that can be associated with addiction.

We're also actively seeking funding to support new recovery-focused initiatives to help grow peer-to-peer support, and to explore how we can support building new recovery-led enterprises.

One of our Humankind Senior Managers, Sue Northcott, is supporting our Recovery Cities work in Leeds. Sue also supports our services in Bradford, including the LERO which is a partner in their drug and alcohol service. Sue will be connecting Leeds and Bradford Lived Experience Recovery Organisations building on her knowledge and experience of managing the West Yorkshire Fulfilling Lives Programme, WY-FL.

International update

Beckley, West Virginia

The City of Beckley, W.Va., will soon become the first Inclusive Recovery City (IRC) in the United States. On March 19, city, state, national and international leaders in recovery support will come together to sign a charter declaring Beckley as an IRC – the first in the nation, joining 26 other cities across Europe, the Balkans, and South Africa as IRCs.

The community is invited to attend the public remarks and the signing of the IRC charter, at the West Virginia University of Technology auditorium. and lunch will be catered by the Fruits of Labor Pizzeria & Café across the street (a recovery café and Recovery Community Centre).

March 19 events will kick off with the Beckley IRC charter signing, including remarks from city, state and international leaders, followed by a luncheon and afternoon working groups.

Jay Phillips CEO of Seed Sower has worked tirelessly to make the recovery support services vision a reality. “The region has embraced our efforts and, thanks to six federal and state funding awards, we are offering safe, stable housing—which was our original number one priority—and expanded that far beyond to include transportation, workforce training and peer recovery support services focusing on southern West Virginia,” said Phillips.

“This model offered a strategic way to best help the people and employers of this region, leveraging the area’s considerable community strengths and organizational assets,” he said.

Phillips said Beckley will also establish an Inclusive Recovery Cities board, involving grassroots recovery and community organizations, certain specialized addiction treatment services, and representatives from the city. City leaders will also engage in the Inclusive Recovery Cities movement, fostering the exchange of ideas and innovation at both national and international levels.

Beckley Mayor Rob Rappold said, “We are honored to be the first city in the country to be named an IRC. From the successful Communities of Healing initiative to The Well, and now with this designation, our city leaders and our citizens have steadfastly stood with those in recovery seeking a path forward.”

Entities joining Seed Sower in supporting the Beckley IRC include:

- City of Beckley
- Fruits of Labor, Inc.
- WorkForce West Virginia Region 1
- Jobs and Hope WV
- New River Gorge Regional Development Authority / The WV Hive
- Raleigh County Drug Court
- Raleigh County Adult Probation
- Raleigh County Family Treatment Court
- Raleigh County Day Report Center
- West Virginia University Institute of Technology
- Southern WV Fellowship Home
- Crab Orchard Baptist Church



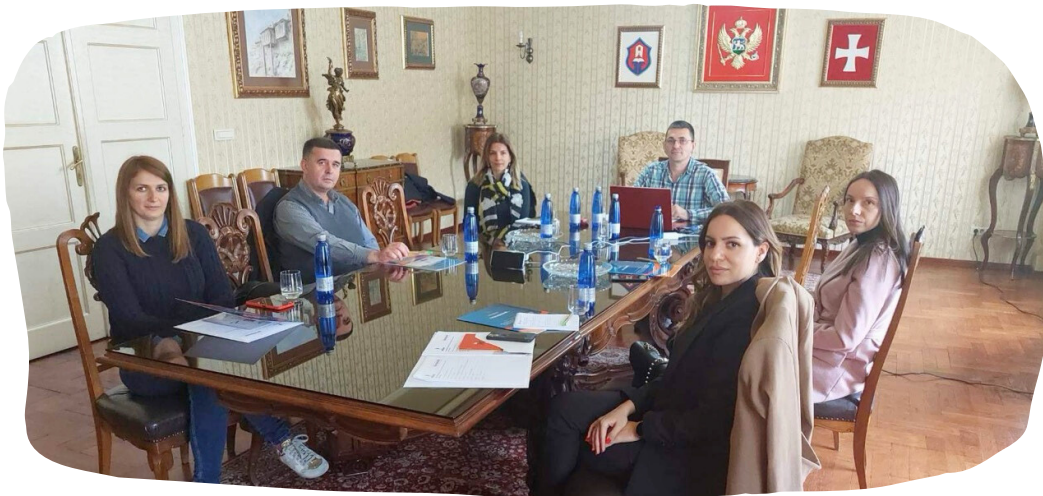
Seed Sower offers a comprehensive recovery and residential plan that networks multiple community, state and federal resources to provide evidence-based support services to our adult, women residents. These supports are built around the four major dimensions of recovery support as identified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): Home, Health, Purpose and Community. Our work is grounded in creating a larger, holistic Recovery Ecosystem to sustain long-term recovery. More details are at <https://seedsowerinc.org/>

International update

Montenegro

Building on the foundation of the 4 Inclusive Recovery Cities and their Multidisciplinary teams, the movement is now expanding to include more cities and innovative support mechanisms. These teams, through their dedication and collaborative efforts, have laid the groundwork for a transformative approach to addiction and recovery in historically stigmatizing Montenegrin environment, engaging in consistent meetings over the past few years to refine and enhance their strategies.

The enthusiasm and positive outcomes generated by this pioneering approach have not gone unnoticed. Other cities across the nation have shown a keen interest in adopting this multi-sector recovery support model, recognizing the profound impact of these initiatives on individuals and communities.



In response to this growing momentum, a pivotal meeting is scheduled for March, involving key stakeholders from one of the cities that has expressed a strong commitment to fostering a recovery-oriented environment. This city has taken a proactive step by planning to offer local recovery counseling and coaching services on a weekly basis starting in March. This development is a significant expansion of recovery services, ensuring more accessible and continuous support for individuals on their journey to recovery.

International update

A notable advancement is the support of government for a free and anonymous Helpline. This helpline is available to all citizens, providing immediate access to support and advice. The government's involvement extends to the installation of road signs across the country, prominently featuring the helpline number. This initiative not only enhances visibility and accessibility but also signifies a strong commitment to public health and well-being.

Simultaneously, the Center for support for women victims of violence 'Women's Safe House' has joined us in a groundbreaking partnership by integrating recovery counseling into its array of services. This initiative will provide both individual and group session counseling within a safe environment to address the dual challenges of drug disorders and violence.



The center has committed to integrating recovery counseling into its support services for women who are either struggling with drug use disorders or have been victims of violence due to partner drug use. This pioneering initiative acknowledges the complex relationship between drugs and domestic violence, offering a holistic approach to healing and empowerment to women and families. These initiatives have gained significant media attention, leading to numerous invitations for interviews. Through these media opportunities, we have been able to amplify our message, reach a wider audience, and foster a stronger Inclusive Recovery community of support and advocacy.



Next steps & future meetings

The next two meetings will be held in Leeds to coincide with the launch of the Centre for Addiction Recovery Research and in York.

If you would like to find out more,
or are interested in attending the
next IRC meeting, please contact:

Professor David Best –
cultivatingrecoverycapital.com
email: davidwilliambest@icloud.com

To be added to the IRC newsletter
distribution list, please email:
eleanor@doubleimpact.org.uk