



## Drugs, Alcohol, Women and Families Conference (DAWF) 2018

The DAWF committee (Sarah Fox, Sharon Greenwood and Joyce Nicholson) would like to thank the SSA for sponsoring this two-day event!

The response to the event exceeded our expectations. A total of 86 delegates attend over the two days; this included two keynote speakers, three workshop facilitators, and two conference chairs. Delegates travelled from the UK (with a large Scottish cohort), Ireland, Spain, Belgium, Finland and Iceland. Delegates also represented institutions from both academia and practice including local drug and alcohol services from Manchester. In total, the conference hosted 39 oral presentations, 2 keynote presentations, 1 workshop and 9 posters.

A feedback survey was emailed to all delegates following the event and a total of 27 people responded to the survey. Overall, the conference was rated '**excellent**' (74%) by those who responded to the survey. Respondents said:

*An excellent day, organized, structured and with great speakers. Both days ran smoothly, each presentation session felt comfortable and not too long.*

*Well matched presentations in each session. It was a really engaging and interesting day – thank you!*

*It was the best conference I have ever been to, both in a practical way and content-wise.*

When asked what they liked about DAWF, respondents said:

*Probably the first conference specifically about women and substance use. In many other conferences this topic is assigned a parallel session of maximum two hours. It's a revelation to be able to talk to so many people working on this topic during the two days.*

*Everything! The conference was brilliant. The keynotes were a highlight. Most of all, I enjoyed how friendly and supportive the conference was. Great networking opportunities, but even doing the social event and having prizes for bester paper and poster was fun.*

Delegates also commented on the "supportive environment" and "uniqueness" of the event. The survey also asked delegates 'what could be improved' and respondents highlighted practical improvements such as more time for discussion.

Since the conference we have maintained a social media presence and we have created a new DAWF mailing list (in line with GDPR). We are also in the process of uploading speaker presentations to the website.

Overall the feedback from DAWF shows the importance of hosting a conference that specifically focuses on women, children and young people. We aim to make DAWF an annual event with plans to host DAWF 2019 in Glasgow. We hope the SSA will continue to support us in this endeavour.