

Thank you to everyone who came along to our recent workshop on 22 Oct 2025. This followed on from the [National Learning System webinar on the topic of Options Appraisal](#).

At the workshop participants shared experiences and had an honest discussion around joint working challenges and shared good practice and ways forward.

Key highlights



Spotlight discussion

The attendees discussed a case map. Most recognised a similar picture for how services operate in their area and identified missed opportunities for joined up working. This gave ideas for improvement in local areas.



One attendee reflected that this case described how things used to be in their area and shared their improvement journey, which included co-locating services, offering joint appointments, and hosting frequent case meetings for people who had both mental health and substance use concerns.

Use of tools

The group discussed [options appraisal](#).

Attendees were familiar with a version of options appraisal but agreed a structured approach had benefit for robust decision making.



Who was in the room?

We had **four participants** representing NHS Ayrshire & Arran, NHS Fife & NHS Lothian.

Roles Included:

- Addiction Worker
- Addiction Nurse
- Nurse Practitioner
- Clinical Nurse Specialist

Ideas to take away



Participants agreed the value of overcoming barriers to support better joined-up working. Some planned to reinvigorate joint meetings. Others to use options appraisal to agree a way forward.



One attendee was encouraged by hearing the results of good practice and will have further conversations about a role working across mental health and substance use services.

Got a case or theme you'd like to bring next time?
Let us know!
his.transformationalchangementalhealth@nhs.scot

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