This year, in 2017, Addaction is celebrating 50 years of supporting people to recover from drug, alcohol and mental health issues. Here is a snapshot of how Addaction began and our 50 years of supporting people to recover.

50th anniversary addaction

1967

Mollie Craven wrote an article in the Guardian newspaper appealing to the families of people with drug problems to start a support group. Mollie had first-hand experience of dealing with addiction in the family: her son was addicted to heroin by the age of 18. Feeling powerless to help, Mollie wrote; **"we parents of addicts are a neglected and ignored group".** The organisation she set up was named the **Association for the Prevention of Addiction** (APA for short).

Initially APA was very small, delivering a number of drop-in services funded by donations and grants, offering a safe, non-judgemental place to go with tea, empathy and counselling. Sadly, Mollie Craven's son died at the age of 21, but she continued her tireless, pioneering work, helping to influence policy in the UK.

1971

The Government's 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act increased national action, but there was little consensus on how to best treat addiction. APA resisted medicalising substance misuse, seeing addiction – from the outset – as a social problem. As substance misuse grew as an issue, the organisation grew with it. Volunteers have been the bedrock of the organisation from the beginning: **originally APA was run entirely by volunteers.**

1980

Mollie Craven retired from APA, though she remained in close contact. New CEO **Peter Martin** took over and grew the team from only four full-time staff to around 700 by the time he retired in 1999. (For his work, Peter Martin was awarded a CBE in 2006). We set up a number of projects including (among others):
The 493 Project in Bethnal Green, London – it was well-funded by the local health authority and ran the first APA needle exchange with volunteers and three members of staff. It also offered testing and counselling for hepatitis A and B.
The Maya Project in South London – a residential rehab project, prioritising BAME women & mothers with children under 12.

1985

APA set up a **central office** near Russell Square with donated furniture.

As the AIDS crisis began in the 1980s, harm reduction policies were introduced in the UK to reduce the spread of blood-borne viruses. APA developed treatment services including needle exchange. spread of blood-borne disease. APA developed treatment services including **needle exchange.**

1990

By 1998 APA was running 19 projects and services in England, including one based out of Cowcross Street – now head office. A number of these projects were residential, and mostly they were based in and around London and the South East. The charity's turnover was £3.5 million. **In March 1998 APA was renamed as Addaction in a ceremony attended by dignitaries including Princess Anne.**

1995

APA turned 30 years old and began the process of rebranding. **We opened our first young people's project** – the Young Addaction Impact Project in London. We had already been providing prison services like those in HMP Channingswood and HMP Swaleside therapeutic communities for some time.

APA developed relationships with policy-makers and government, with MPs regularly visiting the services to learn more. APA campaigned for more and better treatment responses, and for preventative interventions including educating children and young people, and supporting families at risk. By the mid-90s APA was running services in a number of prisons, had launched services in Liverpool and set up the nation-wide Quality Assurance programme to ensure best practice across the growing organization.

1997

1998

A Hastings GP practice won the first ever Nye Bevan Award – 'the NHS Oscars' – for their work with Addaction. An ambitious fundraising programme began, including international cycle challenges in Vietnam, Israel and Venezuela.

1999

Our annual turnover was £7 million with 46 projects running – including new sites in Lincolnshire. We were working in various Young Offenders Institutions and began an arrest referral service in Cornwall. **HRH The Princess Royal (Princess Anne) spoke at Addaction's conference on Young People and Drugs.**

2001

We joined the new **Young People's Health Partnership** and launched the Family Intervention Programme. We acquired social enterprise **RE:SOURCE** in Cornwall, which we re-launched as a retail outlet, providing community workshops and a space where service users gain work experience.

To ensure service users' voices were heard at every level of the organisation we created a **User Involvement Coordinator role.** We launched a Young Addaction website, and began corporate partnerships with Heineken and Zurich Community Trust. We started to deliver harm-reduction work around Image and Performance Enhancing Drugs. The charity served 23,000 clients and had an annual turnover of over £22 million. CEO Peter Martin retired.

2004

2005

Addaction was running 83 services, with an annual income of £16.6 million. Family intervention **Breaking the Cycle** was commissioned (launched in 2005), funded £1 million by the Zurich Community Trust (the largest single donation they had made to date), and analysed by University of Warwick.

2006

We delivered 86 services across England and Scotland, including a new mother and baby unit in Glasgow. **Deborah Cameron** joined as CEO.

2007

We launched our **first prescribing services** contract in Lancashire.

2008

We launched our first **whole system treatment service** in Cambridgeshire.

2009

Simon Antrobus took over as new CEO.

2010

We merged with **Mainliners,** a harm reduction charity based in London.

2011

We ran our first annual **Recovery Conference.**

2012

We launched training and development programmes for Addaction staff as well as professionals such as teachers and youth workers.

2013

2014

We partnered with the Amy Winehouse Foundation to run the Big Lottery Funded **Amy Winehouse Foundation Resilience Programme**, going into schools to build young people's resilience and educate them about drugs and alcohol. Residential rehabilitation service **Addaction Chy** moved residences – increasing bed capacity to 17.

2015

Addaction merged with KCA, who provided mental health, drug, alcohol and family services across the South East. We continued working with the Hepatitis C Trust in the South West, winning a European Collaboration Award. We launched a specialist alcohol misuse service, **Right Turn**, targeting former armed forces personnel, and began our **Drink Wise Age Well** programme for the over 50s, with a £25million grant from the Big Lottery. **Blackpool Fulfilling Lives** – a cross-organisational project to support people with multiple & complex needs began.

2016

We're still developing innovative support such as the **Mind and Body** scheme, supporting young people around self-harm. We retain Investors in People Silver accreditation. CEO Simon Antrobus steps down. Chair of Trustees Adrian Auer retires after nine years. New Chair **Lord Alex Carlile** QC joins Addaction, a cross-bench life peer and former MP.

2017

New Chief Executive **Mike Dixon** joins Addaction after six successful years at Citizens Advice. We have a turnover of around £75million and celebrate our **50th anniversary!**