

Drug Death Prevention (Scotland) Bill

About You

Q1. Are you responding as:

An individual

Q2. Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Member of the public

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

My brother died of a heroin overdose last year.

Q3. Please select the category which best describes your organisation:

No Response

Q4. Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your name or the name of your organisation. (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)

Gavin Heron

Q5. Please provide a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. (Note: We will not publish these contact details.)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Q6. Data protection declaration

In order to proceed, please confirm that you have read and understood the Privacy Notice contained on Page 1

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used.

Q7. If you are under 12 and making a submission, we will need to contact you to ask your parent or guardian to confirm to us that they are happy for you to send us your views.

No Response

Your Views On The Proposal

Q8. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (please note this is a compulsory question)

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

In an effort to reduce the harms associated with drug usage I feel that OPCs are a necessary intervention from a healthcare perspective. My brother died alone at home from a heroin overdose.

Multiple attempts throughout his life were made to reduce his intake of a variety of illegal drugs. At no point was my brother Evan given any official health advice as to how to consume drugs safely. Education about this could have led him to reducing the dose he consumed that ended with him dying alone at age 25.

People need the safe environment that OPCs provide, an opportunity for healthcare to be provided in that setting and an access point to the health service through that OPC.

Q9. Do you think legislation is required, or are there are other ways in which the Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

Legislation is needed to protect users and the providers of the service. They cannot exist without the fear of criminalisation being removed, for both service users and staff.

Q10. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to establish overdose prevention centres?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

In an effort to reduce the harms associated with drug usage I feel that OPCs are a necessary intervention from a healthcare perspective. My brother died alone at home from a heroin overdose.

Multiple attempts throughout his life were made to reduce his intake of a variety of illegal drugs. At no point was my brother Evan given any official health advice as to how to consume drugs safely. Education about this could have led him to reducing the dose he consumed that ended with him dying alone at age 25.

People need the safe environment that OPCs provide, an opportunity for healthcare to be provided in that setting and an access point to the health service through that OPC.

Q11. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal for a licensing regime to enable the establishment of overdose prevention centres?

Fully supportive

Please provide reasons for your response, including on the proposed conditions for licensing (see pages 12 to 14 of the consultation document) and on the proposal that health and social care partnerships are responsible for licensing and scrutinising OPCs?

HSCPs must not use licensing as an opportunity to restrict OPCs to certain areas. It will encourage a gerrymandering of health outcomes that must be opposed. Objections based on lowering of home equity value etc must be fervently opposed in order to tackle the stigma assigned to people who use drugs. If there are safety concerns then measures must be taken into place to alleviate these concerns, not used as a reason to restrict geographical access.

Licensing must be used to ensure the safety and security of those service users and service staff.

Q12. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal for a new body, the Scottish Drugs Deaths Council?

Fully supportive

Please provide reasons for your response, including views on the proposed functions of the SDDC (see pages 14 to 16 of the consultation document) and on how it should operate in practice.

A separate organisation should be installed in order to ensure local councils & HSCPs are taking action against drug deaths in their area of operation.

The SDDC must have powers to force HSCPs to enact further changes to reduce drug deaths within their boundary.

Financial Implications

Q13. Any new law can have a financial impact which would affect individuals, businesses, the public sector, or others. What financial impact do you think this proposal could have if it became law?

no overall change in costs

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including who you would expect to feel the financial impact of the proposal, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could be delivered more cost-effectively.

Private contractors should be avoided in the running of this service at all costs.

Equalities

Q14. Any new law can have an impact on different individuals in society, for example as a result of their age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

What impact could this proposal have on particular people if it became law? If you do not have a view skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your answer and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

Outreach to all communities affected by drug deaths. This includes BAME, LGBTQ+ and disabled people. All must feel welcome within the service and staff must be trained on the issues facing these groups individually, whether stigma from family or fear of accessing services due to further stigmatisation by service users or staff.

Sustainability

Q15. Any new law can impact on work to protect and enhance the environment, achieve a sustainable economy, and create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations.

Do you think the proposal could impact in any of these areas? If you do not have a view then skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including what you think the impact of the proposal could be, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts?

Challenging right wing media narratives about the bill wholeheartedly and not offering concessions to arguments about 'where will the money come from' 'spending money on junkies when kids are hungry' and so on. These interventions will save the NHS money and are more importantly and this should be stressed, the morally right thing to do.