

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.

Overdose prevention centres are a proven method of reducing deaths from overdose, blood borne viruses and isolation. They also increase the social capital of opiate users which can increase trust in terms of access to wider support provision. These facilities not only save lives, they can help to rebuild them.

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.

In order to protect service providers and service users there would need to be regulation in place. Especially in light of the misuse of drugs act.

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.

The increases in overdose deaths in recent years from heroin use have reached a point now, where direct harm reduction measures such as overdose prevention centres are required. We cannot continue to sit idly by while people (many of whom have experienced childhood trauma), continue to die. Especially in light of the positive evidence from other countries who have implemented overdose prevention centres.

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?

All of the proposed licensing conditions will ensure that any OPC operates in a safe manner for service users, staff and surrounding residential areas. Also placing the licensing framework under the supervision of NHS Scotland will go a long way towards increasing knowledge that substance use is a health issue not one of criminality. As stated in the document this will also remove the OPC from political interference thus ensuring that the service provision is protected.

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.

This is an excellent proposal which will ensure that all voices are heard. It is vital that those with living/lived experience are offered the opportunity to have input into recommendations for changes to Scottish government policy. These people are experts and it is pleasing to see this being acknowledged. The SDDC being subject to parliamentary approval will also cement its role and the support and confidence of parliament, thus ensuring that its advice and suggestions for change will be more highly respected.

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?

a significant reduction 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.

Upon considering the impact of blood borne viruses such as HCV and the issues around people being aware they need to be tested, an OPC will start to reduce costs. Please also consider the treatment of abscesses which in England in 2015 cost approximately £19 million. Also when examining findings from other countries these facilities offer large scale savings across the board. It may take some time for these financial benefits to be felt but I believe in San Francisco it was found that every dollar spent on an OPC saved two dollars over time. These facilities save lives, reduce healthcare costs and enable those who use opiates to re engage with society should they so wish. We must never forget the cost of social isolation and OPC's assist with ameliorating these issues for some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

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.

OPC's should be a welcoming space for anyone who needs them. Perhaps a separate room for individuals who (for reasons of religion, gender or any other protected characteristic) do not feel safe being around other substance users, can have the opportunity to still use the facility, but on their terms and in line with their requirements. All OPC's should be easily accessible for people with physical or mental health issues with staff on hand to provide support where needed.

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?

The proposal will strengthen the economy via reduced healthcare costs. The main focus here though is 'a strong, healthy and just society for future generations'. For too long individuals who use opiates have been othered and effectively disenfranchised. These facilities offer a safe, supportive space for people who have already experienced great hardships. Surely this is the cornerstone of a just society?