

# 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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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

I am a manager with over 30 years in the addiction field and have worked in the NHS, SW Criminal Justice, Child Care, Third Sector community based services and third sector residential services. I am a qualified Social Worker, have a degree in Psychology and two Masters, one in Social Science Research in the addiction field and the other in Social Work Management in the residential addiction arena.

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

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

**Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).**

We provide community based services and a residential recovery unit

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 (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)

Donnie McGilveray

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)

Partially supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

It is clear that services have been underfunded for many years and in particular Third Sector. Funding has drained away as Scottish Councils and HSCP took control over procurement and funding. This is a crucial point as service provision, power and control reside with those who hold the purse strings. In England the commissioners of services are independent and can build relations with prospective providers. Unfortunately in Scotland the Local authorities and HSCP are not independent. They are providers of services as well as commissioners of services. We have seen these services double with large costs, particularly NHS while Third Sector have either gone to the wall or are surviving on very reduced budgets. Third Sector are innovative and able to make operational decisions quickly and implement them. Statutory systems are not as can be seen in the debacle over getting ADPs to implement MAT standards and residential provision. With this all happening we are instead debating the use of consumption rooms at great cost provided by NHS for approximately 2-3% of a drug using population where the direction of movement away from drug consumption is likely to be miniscule. To say this is not important is wrong as it will save lives, however so too will investment in recovery and employability issues as individuals see a route to a better life.

First we must have an independent body -independent of statutory services- independent of private sector services - independent of Third Sector services.

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.

It is a power and control issue as funding determines the model, the level and the sustainability as this must be moved to people who know the addiction field and its relationship with Housing, with education, training and employment and its relationship health and wellbeing. Only legislation will achieve this.

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

Partially opposed

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Only in respect of the costs while most other services have had a decade of cuts and underfunding. My fear is that this is a headline event that tackles very few individuals. Anecdotal information that the pilot in Glasgow only managed to fill half the 21 places with the participants having mixed results also indicates strong influential forces such as the NHS are lobbying too enthusiastically when the gaps in so many other areas are stark.

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 opposed

**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?**

Again this in my view is a headline grabber for 2-3% of a population that by their very actions are chaotic. I have expressed my opposition to vested interests having oversight as this will again drain funds into these large statutory agencies instead of a transparent independent body which could be the National Care Authority.

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.**

Now this is timely but will have no teeth unless it has financial responsibility, procurement and governance intertwined with a strategy that can be reviewed and delivered. Also part of this Council should have the political clout to enforce compliance of strategic aims, identify and standardize service provision across the whole of Scotland

## 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 increase 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.**

As already stated, statutory bodies that have enabler capacity( procurement and awarding of funding) as well as provider capacity where their main function is to provide services will inevitably ensure their own service is protected whether it is efficient or not and whether it is value for money or not. This needs to be broken and this legislation in the Council proposal doesn't go far enough and in the consumption rooms is not a priority when placed against the needs of the majority of drug users and fatal overdoses.

## 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.**

As always there is a significant reluctance for female drug users to identify themselves as requiring consumption rooms as to do so is to indicate their chaos and inability to come off drugs through more conventional routes. That narrative could be counterproductive as these individuals would naturally fear social work involvement as they are often the main or principal carer of their children.

## 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?

As stated I believe the focus should be on independent transparent power brokers with the financial muscle to enforce rapid change. This makes some improvements, tinkers around other areas and misses the main opportunity. alas the same may be said of the Government's strategy in continuing with ADPs and watering down the National Care Authority's proposed remit.

On the positive side it continues to highlight what an appalling mess the last 15 years have been in providing direction for the most marginalized in our communities.

My apologies for the negative tone in what is a genuine attempt to address the most chaotic but they need a purpose, a meaning and a direction of travel and if we are able to map out that route of recovery then these individuals have a light at the end of the tunnel. Consumption rooms as the main plank of drug reform misses the mark in my view.