

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:

I am a student nurse in NHS Highland and I wish to see the prevention of drug related deaths throughout Scotland

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 (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)

Finn MacKee

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.)

XXXXXXXXXXXX

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.

Drug deaths are a major issue here in Scotland and it must be addressed. I feel this bill covers these issues very well, especially with the OPCs. Providing people who use drugs with a place they can engage with health and social care staff allows them to feel safe and give opportunities for them to receive help with their addiction. I also think the creation of a drug deaths council allows this issue to be given the proper attention it requires in order to address it and reduce unnecessary deaths throughout the country.

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.

I feel that a bill will help these centres open without fear of being prosecuted or get into trouble for helping people use drugs safely. It will also allow more centres to be opened across Scotland to prevent premature and unnecessary deaths as this issue is not based in one area of the country. I hope that this bill can allow funding to support these centres so that they can have adequate supplies and staff. I hope that people who use drugs will see they are valued through this bill and feel they can come to these centres for support and safety.

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.

It provides people who are using drugs to do so in a safe environment with people who can help them if an emergency occurs. They can also use these areas as an opportunity to receive help if they wish to stop using. Clean equipment will decrease the occurrence of blood borne viruses spreading and other issues from dirty equipment. People who use drugs and those with addictions are human beings and if there is a way to prevent them dying then we absolutely should put it into action. People don't choose to become addicted to drugs, many other factors influence that original decision to start using. We cannot ignore those who need help just because the substances are illegal. If we can provide a safe environment free from judgement for those who may not have anywhere they feel safe, we must do so.

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?

Due to this being a public health issue, I think it makes sense for health and social care to cover these centres. It is vital there are healthcare staff present to assist in accidental overdoses and provide advice if required to users who may wish to stop using. I think the policy around OPCs needs to be carefully created to ensure it does not infringe on existing legislation around misuse of drugs but also provides holistic and person-centred care to those requiring these services. I believe the health and social care partnerships are the best people for this.

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.

It is such a big issue I think creating a council is important for really tackling this. Gathering lived experience from former users and active users about what would help is also vital in creating a functional service that will be used and I hope that the creation of a council can allow the time to be put into this in order to create the best outcomes possible.

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?

some 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.

I think there would be an initial increase in founding these centres and providing staff and equipment, but there would be a decrease of pressure in A&E from drug related issues if there is prevention in the first place. I think it would take time and resources to get started but may reduce costs in other areas.

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.

It can improve the lives of people with drug addictions as it can provide them with a safe and judgement free environment to use drugs and prevent traumatic events occurring in an unsafe place (overdose for example). I would hope that these centres would provide for the most vulnerable and would not refuse those with protected characteristics.

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?

There will be less discarded drug paraphernalia left as these centres would dispose of them properly. I believe it would change the views on those with drug problems as they would be seen as those needing help rather than individuals we should ignore or forget about.