

# Easy read summary

## Alcohol and drug services



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The number of people dying in Scotland because of alcohol or drug use is higher than in other parts of the UK and Europe.



This is happening even though the Scottish Government has put more money into alcohol and drug services.



The Scottish Government has:

- made more beds available in places where people can stay to get treatment
- made **treatment standards** – these explain what level of quality people should expect from a treatment service.



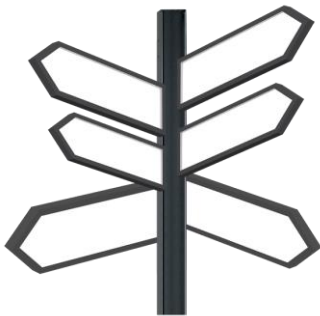
Progress on some of the main Scottish plans has been slow, like on:



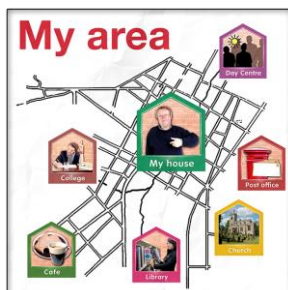
- a **workforce plan** – a plan for making things better for people who work in alcohol and drug services



- ways to change how alcohol is advertised.



Alcohol and drug services are provided by many different organisations.



Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) organise local services.



ADPs are not **statutory bodies** – this means they are not needed by law.



It needs to be clearer who is responsible for each service.



The Scottish Government is doing work called a **National Mission** to have less drug deaths and harms.



This means that work has moved away from dealing with harm caused by alcohol.



The National Mission has 2 hundred and 50 million pounds of extra money to do work on drug harm.



The work will happen from 2021 to 2026.



In 2023 to 2024 1 hundred and 61 million pounds of funding was available to alcohol and drug services.

This is more than 2 times the funding that was available 10 years ago.



Funding that happens for a few months or a year makes it difficult for services to:

- plan for what will happen in the future
- put money into **prevention**.



This means stopping problems from happening or stopping things from getting worse.



People from the most deprived areas are far more likely to be affected by drugs and alcohol harm.

A **deprived** area is one where people have more difficulties in different parts of their life.



Many people who live there do not have:

- enough money
- choices and chances.



It is harder for some groups to get services, especially:

- women
- people living in the countryside or in villages
- young people.





Things that make it difficult for people to get alcohol and drug treatment include:

- **stigma** – being treated unfairly because people do not understand the difficulties they face



- no local services



- waiting lists



- having a lot of rules about who has the right to get treatment.



Staff that work in alcohol and drug services:

- have a lot of pressure and stress to deal with



- do not feel **valued** – they feel that people:

- do not think they are important
- do not think that they do a good job



- often do not know if their job will last for a long time.





Organisations in health and social care, education, housing, and in prison and community justice settings need to:

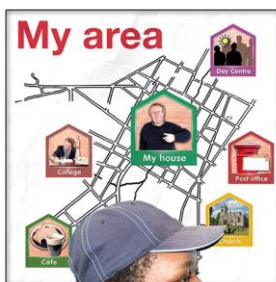
- work better together



- share **data** – facts, figures and information.

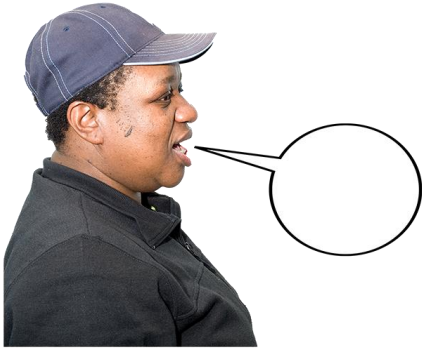


People with **lived and living experience** of alcohol and drug problems are sometimes involved in deciding what services should be available.



This is different in different parts of the country.

**Lived experience** means what people know based on the things they have experienced.



Work needs to change to make sure that people with lived experience can say what services they want in their local areas.



The Scottish Government needs to:

- understand which alcohol and drug services give the best service for the money they cost



- plan how services will be funded when the National Mission ends in 2026.

