

Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport
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10 March 2026

Today, we have published [Preventing Harm, Promoting Recovery: Scotland's Alcohol & Drugs Strategic Plan](#) which sets out our long-term direction for addressing alcohol and drug related harms in Scotland through a public health, evidence-based approach.

We remain acutely aware that alcohol and drug harms in Scotland are unacceptably high, with too many lives cut short as a result. We are committed to maintaining focus and taking action to prevent harm, promote recovery and save lives. The investment made over the last five years through the National Mission will be sustained as we move into this next phase.

Developed as a joint Scottish Government-COSLA initiative, the Plan will strengthen national and local partnership working so that people can access the right support when and where they need it. It builds on the important progress made throughout the National Mission and sets out a renewed emphasis on prevention and early intervention, while continuing to prioritise vital harm reduction measures and improved treatment and care pathways to support long-term recovery.

At its core, the Plan is grounded in a commitment to a human rights-based approach, ensuring that everyone affected by alcohol and drugs is treated with dignity, respect and compassion, in line with the Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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Alongside the Plan, we have published a revised [Partnership Delivery Framework](#) for Alcohol & Drug Partnerships which provides clarity on roles, responsibilities and scrutiny, and aims to support consistent implementation across local areas.

The Scottish Government has also published a [National Specification](#) for Alcohol and Drugs Services, which sets out the minimum service components that must be available within local systems for individuals and families affected by alcohol and drug use across Scotland.

Taken together these publications represent the next chapter in our efforts to prevent harm, promote recovery and ultimately save lives.

Kind regards,

Maree Todd MSP

Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Sport, Scottish Government

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