



Plan for Action on alcohol problems summary



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

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Alcohol is widely used and enjoyed in Scotland. But when alcohol is misused there can be serious consequences for individuals, their families and friends, and for society as a whole. From illness to family problems, accidents and crime, alcohol has the potential to ruin lives.

Alcohol problems in Scotland are getting worse. More adults are drinking too much. Children and young people are also drinking more than ever before.

We are responsible for our own drinking and the impact it has on others. We estimate that alcohol problems cost Scotland at least £1 billion each year. It is in all our interests to do what we can to tackle these problems.

That is why the Executive has produced a Plan for Action which sets out a whole series of measures to reduce alcohol-related harm in Scotland.

The two key priorities of the Plan are to reduce binge drinking and reduce harmful drinking by children and young people.



Some of the action includes:

- changing attitudes to binge drinking through a new national campaign;
- a framework for support and treatment services to assist those who plan and commission services to assess local needs and improve services;
- a new Health Promoting Schools Unit to support the implementation of the health promoting school concept throughout Scotland;
- a new parents' guide to help parents talk with their children about alcohol;
- continuing efforts to reduce drink driving;
- promotion of training and responsible practice for those serving and selling alcohol;
- more support for local alcohol problems co-ordinating groups;
- improved training for staff in services addressing alcohol problems.

Licensing law is also being reviewed to look at the effects of licensing on health and public order.

The Plan brings together six months of consultation with problem drinkers and their families and friends, children and young people, NHS boards, local authorities, the voluntary sector, the drinks industry and licensed trade, the police and businesses. Professional groups, communities and individuals will all be involved in delivering the action in the Plan.



Finding out more

This summary and the full Plan are available on the Scottish Executive website at www.scotland.gov.uk/health/alcoholproblems. Further copies of the Plan can be bought from The Stationery Office Bookshop, 71 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9AZ (telephone 0870 606 5566).

This summary is also available on request in alternative languages and formats. For further details contact a member of the alcohol action team at:

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If you want to comment on any of the issues in the Plan, you can contact a member of the alcohol action team at the address above.

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