

CONSULTATION SCHEDULE – Council Meeting 1 December 2020

	RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	SUBMISSION BY
1.	DoH Health Development Policy Branch	Making Life Better – Preventing Harm and Empowering Recovery: A Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use – A Public Consultation	5 February 2021

Summary

The Department of Health is responsible for leading and co-ordinating action on Northern Ireland's new substance use strategy. The new strategy "Making Life Better – Preventing Harm and Empowering Recovery: A Strategic Framework to Tackle the Harm from Substance Use" – was issued for public consultation on 30 October 2020. We would very much welcome your views on what is contained within the new strategy. I attach a PDF version of the full consultation document, which can also be found on the DoH website at: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/SUS-consultation>.

The current strategy – the [New Strategic Direction for Alcohol & Drugs Phase 2 \(NSD Phase 2\)](#) – was published and endorsed by the former NI Executive in 2012. NSD Phase 2 was recently reviewed, and a [report](#) has been published which looked at its outcomes, outputs, and stakeholder views on how successful this has been.

Taking on board the outcomes from the review, a pre-consultation exercise took place in 2019 on what should be contained within a new substance use strategy. This was followed by the development of the new strategy on a co-production basis with involvement from key stakeholders including; the community and voluntary sector; service users; health professionals; academics; and key government departments and agencies.

We are now seeking views from partners and the general public on the new strategy. We want your views on the vision, indicators, outcomes and targets set out in the new strategy. And we want your views on what should be prioritised, in the event that not all actions can be taken forward in the final published strategy.

Perhaps the easiest way to respond to the consultation would be to use the Citizen Space link at: **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** Alternatively you can respond directly to the Health Development Policy Branch either by email at HDPB@health-ni.gov.uk or by writing to us at Health Development Policy Branch, Room C4.22, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate. BELFAST. BT4 3SQ

Following this consultation, we will collate and analyse all views and inputs, and begin the process of developing the final strategy. This will need to be agreed by the Minister of Health and the NI Executive before being published. It is important to note that the NSD Phase 2 – and all the structures that support action and collaboration – will remain in place until any new strategy is put in place.

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Current Open Consultations

- Department of Justice - Public Consultation on a draft 2021/22 Modern Slavery Strategy for Northern Ireland – Closes

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7 January 2021

- Department of Health – Establishment of a Regional Care and Justice Campus – Closes 15 January 2021.

