

Drugs, Alcohol &
Justice Cross-Party
Parliamentary Group
and APPG on
Alcohol Harm

Alcohol Charter

A new national Alcohol Strategy must lead the way internationally in reducing the damage to society caused by alcohol misuse.

The Strategy must:

- **Be based on the evidence of what works to reduce alcohol harm as outlined in the PHE alcohol evidence review.**
- **Tackle the increased availability of excessively cheap alcohol.**
- **Empower the general public to make fully informed decisions about their drinking.**
- **Provide adequate support for both dependent and non-dependent drinkers.**
- **Set out the Government's intention to reduce harmful drinking, tackle health inequalities, improve family and community resilience and ensure the UK has a healthier, better informed relationship with alcohol. It will do this through evidence-based policy and targeted investment.**

We call on the Government to take tangible steps that can both reduce existing harm to individuals and communities, and prevent people drinking in ways likely to create harms in the future. We call for the Government to:

- **Improve support for those in need**
- **Protect public health**
- **Focus on alcohol related crime and disorder**

Every year, there are more than
1,000,000
alcohol-related hospital
admissions in England

Unless consumption changes,
alcohol is set to cost the NHS

£17 billion
in the next five years alone

In the UK, alcohol is linked to
12,800 cancer cases
every year, and unless
trends change, is
expected to lead to

1,200,000
cancer hospital
admissions and
135,000 cancer deaths
in the next 20 years

Liver disease deaths have increased by

400% since 1970

- now the only major cause of death in the UK which is rising



Improve Support for Those in Need

1. Introduce a 1% 'treatment levy' by increasing alcohol duties to generate additional funding for alcohol treatment services and to increase the proportion of dependent drinkers accessing treatment. Furthermore, set a target date for when treatment services will be available for all who need access.
2. Mandate local authorities to provide and promote a 'ring-fenced' resource for alcohol treatment, early alcohol intervention provision, and prevention services.
3. Develop a funded national programme of advice, guidance and support for those concerned about alcohol including families, carers, and children affected by parental alcohol use.
4. Address the needs of older alcohol drinkers by enforcing action against age inequalities in existing services and developing a range of specialist services to support older adults who drink.
5. Ensure local areas have adequate service provision for those with complex needs, especially those with both alcohol and mental health conditions. One way to achieve this is to ensure assertive outreach and multi-agency partnerships are in place.
6. Ensure that relevant health and social care professionals are trained to provide early identification and brief advice, in particular GPs, paramedics and A&E staff. Apprenticeships based on nationally recognised qualifications for the specialist alcohol and drugs treatment workforce should be created.

Alcohol-related crime costs up to £11 billion a year

There are almost
200,000
children
living with at least one
alcohol-dependent adult

Public Health England
estimates that there are
595,000
alcohol-dependent adults
in England

Effective treatment brings a substantial
return on investment -
for every £1 spent,
£3 of social return is generated

Protect Public Health

7. Launch a comprehensive review of alcohol duties in preparation for a post-Brexit taxation structure that better reflects alcohol strength across categories and addresses anomalies between categories.
8. Introduce Minimum Unit Pricing in England, following the lead of other home nations.
9. Develop a Government-funded programme of health campaigns, without industry involvement and in line with the Chief Medical Officer's guidelines, to increase public knowledge of alcohol and its links to a wide range of physical and mental health conditions.
10. Develop statutory minimum requirements for labelling alcohol products. This should include health warnings, ingredients and nutritional information alongside existing advice.
11. Introduce and enforce tighter restrictions on alcohol marketing via statutory regulation, independent of industry, with a particular emphasis on protecting young people from exposure to alcohol marketing.
12. Improve alcohol licencing by:
 - Introducing a licensing objective to protect public health.
 - Including a new mandatory licensing condition requiring alcohol retailers to have a written policy on how they will prevent illegal sales to intoxicated customers, along with a specific requirement for authorities to enforce the existing law that makes such sales illegal.
 - Carrying out a comprehensive review of online sales and home deliveries to prevent sales to underage, vulnerable or intoxicated customers.

Focus on Alcohol Related Harm

13. Expand the delivery of brief interventions in prisons, courts and custody suites ensuring support is provided post-release where required.
14. Reduce the drink-driving BAC limit to 50mg/100ml in line with Scotland and most of Europe.
15. Continue to invest in family drug and alcohol courts.
16. Increase access to Alcohol Diversion Schemes for those involved in alcohol related crime and disorder.

Drugs, Alcohol & Justice Cross-Party Parliamentary Group

The Drugs, Alcohol & Justice Cross-Party Parliamentary Group provides an interface for professional providers of drug and alcohol treatment with Parliamentarians who share an interest in these issues. It has established a considerable reputation in Parliament over a number of years, meeting with Government and frontbench representatives from all political parties and campaigning on numerous issues across the sector. Co-Chaired by Mary Glendon MP and Lord Ramsbotham, its programme of work is taken forward by Solidarity Consulting.

All Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Harm

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Harm exists to promote discussion of alcohol related issues and to raise issues of concern and make recommendations to government and other policy makers.



For further details please contact Richard Hanford at richardj.hanford@parliament.uk or on 0207 801 2730

This charter has been published by the Drugs, Alcohol & Justice Cross-Party Parliamentary Group and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Harm and prepared in consultation with the AHA, Alcohol Concern, Alcohol Research UK, and the Institute for Alcohol Studies.

Supporting Organisations

