



Department
of Health &
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Government Response to the ACMD Report: Ageing Cohort of Drug Users

I am writing to provide you with the Government and Devolved Administrations responses to the recommendations in the ACMD report on the Ageing Cohort of Drug Users. The publication of this report is very timely, following the recent release of drug related death figures for England and Wales, and Scotland, which have been linked to an ageing cohort of opiate users. We are very grateful to the ACMD for their work in producing a package of comprehensive and considered recommendations to help meet the needs of this vulnerable group.

As health is a devolved matter we have been unable to accept the recommendations on behalf of the devolved administrations. Instead the Department has coordinated contributions from Public Health England and officials in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to the responses.

In response to each recommendation we have set out the work underway to address the issues identified. For recommendations 1 and 2 on the substance misuse workforce officials have provided information on plans for workforce training and development across each of the four nations. There are currently no national plans to implement the service navigator models in recommendation 3 although we will explore how pathways between services can be enhanced. England and Wales already

conform with the reporting standard for data on patients presenting to substance misuse treatment services in recommendation 4.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Council going forward, and my officials would be happy to meet with you to discuss the responses to the ACMD recommendations in more detail.

JO CHURCHILL