

**National Assembly for Wales / Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
**[Health and Social Care Committee / Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal](#)**  
**[Cymdeithasol](#)**

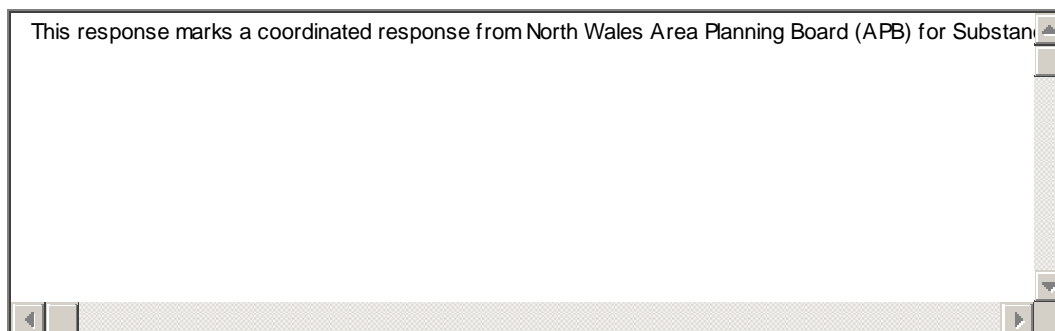
**[Inquiry into alcohol and substance misuse / Ymchwiliad i](#)**  
**[gamddefnyddio alcohol a sylweddau](#)**

**Evidence from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board – ASM(Q) 31 /**  
**Tystiolaeth gan Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Betsi Cadwaladr – ASM(Q) 31**

**Consultation Questionnaire:**

**1. Do you currently work for an organisation which works with people who misuse alcohol or other substances? If so, please state which organisation and whether we should treat your response as being on behalf of that organisation, or as a personal response from you.**

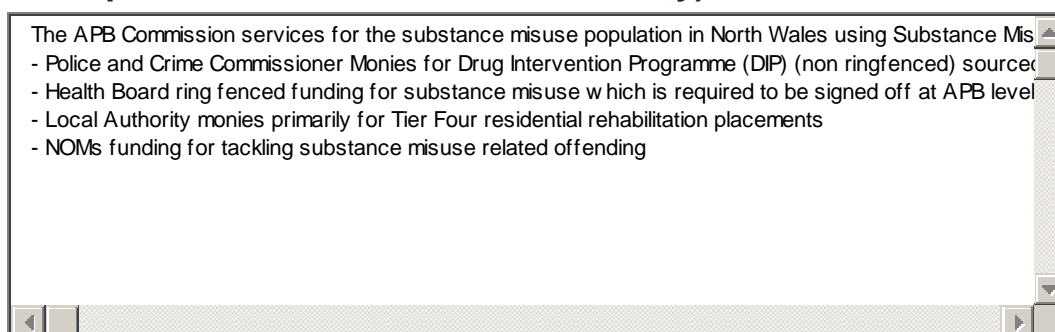
This response marks a coordinated response from North Wales Area Planning Board (APB) for Substan



**2. Which client group(s) do you work with? (For example, under 18s, older persons, homeless, or female only)**

The APB Commission services for the substance misuse population in North Wales using Substance Mis

- Police and Crime Commissioner Monies for Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) (non ringfenced) source
- Health Board ring fenced funding for substance misuse which is required to be signed off at APB level
- Local Authority monies primarily for Tier Four residential rehabilitation placements
- NOMs funding for tackling substance misuse related offending



**3. What are the main reasons why your clients take drugs or drink excessively? Please tick all that apply.**

**If you work with more than one client group or you feel that there are other reasons as to why your clients take drugs or drink excessively, please comment in the box below.**

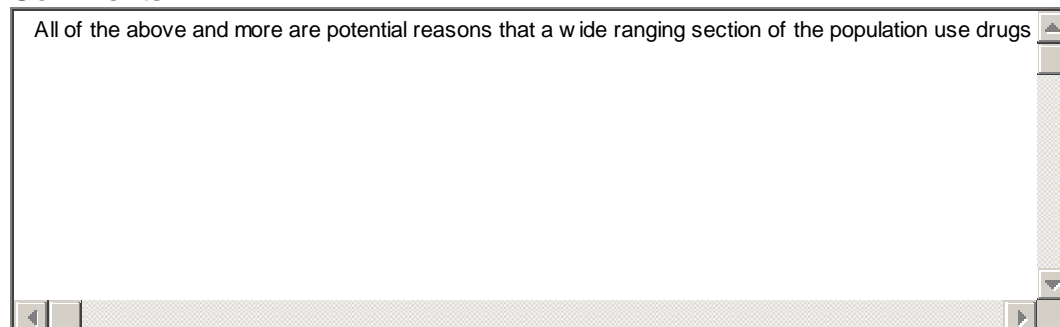
- What are the main reasons why your clients take drugs or drink excessively? Please tick all that apply.**

**If you work with more than one client group or you feel that there are other reasons as to why your clients take drugs or drink excessively, please comment in the box below.** Peer pressure

- A way to deal with stress
- Client(s) already substance reliant
- Mental health
- Boost confidence
- Relieve social anxiety
- Environmental factors (for example - excessive drinking and/or drugs normalised in the home/community)
- Relationship problems
- Financial concerns
- Self-medication
- Escapism
- Other (please comment)

Comments

All of the above and more are potential reasons that a wide ranging section of the population use drugs



**4. Are there certain groups of people who are more likely to be affected by drugs and excessive drinking? If so, which groups might they be?**

It is important to state that any one person can be affected by drug and alcohol use whatever their circumstances. Factors include:  
Poverty  
Social Isolation  
Mental Health  
Other vulnerability factors  
Children of substance misusing parents  
Victims of abuse and so on.  
The important point to be made is that it is not necessarily specific groups that are more likely to be affected.  
It is also important to state that it depends on the drug of choice (including alcohol) and its uses amongst

**5. Does a particular stage of your clients' lives influence their likelihood of taking drugs or drinking excessively? If so, what stage might that be? (i.e. age, relationship breakdown, unemployment etc.)**

In terms of age groups evidence suggests that young people are more likely to experiment with Cannabis.  
There will be periods in people's lives where they are perhaps more prone or vulnerable to drug and alcohol use.

**6. What barriers exist for your client(s) when trying to access support and services?**

Actual and Perceived barriers include but are not limited to:  
-Recognition that they in fact are experiencing a problem with drug and alcohol use  
-Stigma  
-Hierarchy of drug and alcohol users- some alcohol users may identify themselves as completely different  
-Misconceptions that accessing services could lead to children being put into care etc  
-Opening times of services  
-Concerns re: formal records being made about their substance use  
-Fears re: losing their employment, impact on families etc etc  
-Others knowing about their drug and alcohol use as can often be a hidden and private issue  
-Geography/ Rurality

**7. What barriers exist for services when trying to access support for client(s)?**

Actual and Perceived barriers include but are not limited to:

- Knowledge of provision available and its eligibility criteria
- Substance misusers wanting to engage in meaningful support
- Ensuring related needs and vulnerabilities are met
- Resourcing Performance monitoring
- Having the means/ resource to treat underlying causes of substance misuse rather than just symptoms
- Changing cultures and stigma

**8. What do you consider to be barriers for staff and frontline services in working with your client group(s), or substance misuse generally**

The following concentrates on challenges to commissioning effective substance misuse services rather than:

- Shifting resources and approach to an increasingly preventative and early intervention model rather than
- Joining up funding streams given there are different resources available with different commissioning
- Meaningful performance management frameworks that show outcomes have been achieved
- Resourcing Alcohol and the demand and prevalence of this issue
- Creating an approach that concentrates on sustained recovery

**9. Where do you think efforts should be targeted to address the issue of alcohol and substance misuse in Wales?**

- Increasingly ambitious drug and alcohol policy
- Integrated and coordinated approaches with other partnerships and areas of work as substance misuse
- Recovery focused services and provision- getting people out of treatment and support services into su
- Links with mutual aid due to evidence base
- Service user involvement at all levels of drug and alcohol treatment
- Alcohol requires increased focus
- There needs to be more of a shift towards preventative and early intervention approaches, however, i
- As a result of the above more focus upon children and young people to prevent them becoming proble
- Increasing evidence base for interventions and understanding better the scale of the issue, given that
- Ensuring drug and alcohol issues are dealt with effectively within criminal justice system e.g. ensuring

**10. In which local authority area do you work? If you work outside of Wales, please select "Outside Wales"**

**11. If you would like to be kept updated about the progress of the Committee's inquiry into alcohol and substance misuse in Wales, please leave your name and e-mail address below.**