

# Equality impact assessment (EIA) form: evidencing paying due regard to protected characteristics

(Form updated April 2023)

## Substance Use Strategy (Draft)

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যদি আপনি এই ডকুমেন্ট অন্য ভাষায় বা ফরমেটে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে আমাদেরকে বলুন।

如欲索取以另一語文印製或另一格式製作的資料，請與我們聯絡。

اگر آپ کو معلومات کسی دیگر زبان یا دیگر شکل میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے پوچھئے۔

**Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) are public documents. EIAs accompanying reports going to County Councillors for decisions are published with the committee papers on our website and are available in hard copy at the relevant meeting. To help people to find completed EIAs we also publish them in the Equality and Diversity section of our website. This will help people to see for themselves how we have paid due regard in order to meet statutory requirements.**

Name of Directorate and Service Area	Health and Adults Services, Public Health
Lead Officer and contact details	Angela Hall – Public Health Manager Dolly Cook – Service Development Manager
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the EIA	Jennifer Jones – Public Health Apprentice Naomi Smith – Head of HAS Planning
How will you pay due regard? e.g., working group, individual officer	The content and priorities outlined within the draft Substance Use Strategy have been shaped by the findings of this EIA, <a href="#">published needs assessments</a> , national policy and guidance, and the voice of adults, young people and professionals across North Yorkshire.  The strategy will be overseen by the multi-agency Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board

	<p>(chaired by Cllr. Harrison), and delivery will be managed by the Drug and Alcohol Action Team.</p> <p>The multi-agency Substance Use Strategy Editorial Group will review and address equality considerations of the strategy document on behalf of the partnership.</p>
When did the due regard process start?	21/06/2023

**Section 1. Please describe briefly what this EIA is about.** (e.g., are you starting a new service, changing how you do something, stopping doing something?)

The Government’s latest [Alcohol Strategy](#) was published in 2012. The latest national 10-year [Drug Strategy, ‘From Harm to Hope’](#), was published in 2021. Each local area is expected to have a strong partnership that brings together all the relevant parties to take evidence-based and co-ordinated action – in the form of a strategy action plan – and be accountable to the national Joint Combatting Drugs Unit, overseen by the Ministerial lead for the Home Office, via the locally appointed Senior Responsible Officer ([HM Government, 2022](#)). In North Yorkshire, the Senior Responsible Officer is the Director of Public Health.

The multi-agency North Yorkshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board has drafted a Substance Use Strategy for North Yorkshire.

This EIA addresses the equality considerations of the draft strategy – to ensure that we deliver the vision for the whole population of North Yorkshire:

*“we will reduce harms associated with substance use across North Yorkshire – putting people, health, and human rights at the centre”.*

**Section 2. Why is this being proposed? What are the aims? What does the authority hope to achieve by it?** (e.g., to save money, meet increased demand, do things in a better way.)

Substance use has gained significant national political prominence since the publication of the [Independent Review of Drugs](#) in 2021, led by Dame Carol Black. The review reinforces the complexity of substance use. It was scathing of policy and investment over the last decade and called for an adequately resourced system response. It called central and local Government, the broader system and communities to action, referencing the need for significant financial investment; competence and skill mix across the workforce; personalised compassionate care and inclusive communities. It reinforced an ambition to: *“create a system where no one falls through the gaps, where there is no stigma attached to addiction and where people who need it are provided with long-term support”*. The Drug Strategy was the Government’s response to the review. It promised (and has delivered) significant additional investment to:

- Break drug supply chains (£300m nationally);
- Deliver a world class treatment and recovery system (780m nationally);
- Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs (£5m nationally);

It committed to delivering the following outcomes, nationally, between 2022-2025:

- 1,000 fewer deaths;
- a phased expansion to deliver at least 54,500 new high-quality drug and alcohol treatment places for adults - including for people who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping;
- 5,000 new treatment places for young people;
- A treatment place for everyone who is offending and drug dependent;
- Close 2,000 county lines and disrupt 6,400 organised crime group activities

The draft North Yorkshire Substance Use Strategy sets out how partners across North Yorkshire will co-ordinate and deliver action to reduce substance use harms for the North Yorkshire population. It is the first time that key partner organisations have set out collective ambitions and commitments to address substance use (meaning alcohol and other drugs) across North Yorkshire, and updates the Joint Alcohol Strategy (2014-2019). Our commitment to the population of North Yorkshire is:

*“We will reduce harms associated with substance use across North Yorkshire – putting people, health and communities at the centre”.*

We will take a public health approach within our Substance Use Strategy for North Yorkshire.

We will balance our law enforcement responsibilities with compassionate leadership, policy, and practice

We believe in:

- Prevention – we will ensure that people can avoid use of substances, including alcohol;
- Harm reduction – we will reduce harms and deaths;
- Recovery – we will support people to achieve their goals, and live lives free from harmful patterns of substance use.

We will ensure that we:

- Champion and advocate for supportive, compassionate, non-stigmatising communities across North Yorkshire;
- Work alongside people who use substances; people who experience harmful patterns of substance use; our communities; our assets; and our services;

Our priorities will be:

1. Drug supply and responsible retailing of alcohol;
2. Deliver effective support for all people who experience harmful patterns of substance use;
3. Prevention of use of substances;

Our priorities will be underpinned by partnership action on:

- Harm reduction
- Communications and engagement
- Workforce development
- Research and development

- Protective factors that prevent harmful patterns of substance use, and promote recovery
- Substance use in particular places in North Yorkshire.

### **Section 3. What will change? What will be different for customers and/or staff?**

The partnership in place to address substance use across North Yorkshire is strong and is already delivering a range of evidence-based action across all three priorities.

However, the draft North Yorkshire Substance Use Strategy updates the existing Joint Alcohol Strategy (2014-2019) and is the first time that partner organisations have set out collective ambitions and commitments to address substance use (meaning alcohol and other drugs) harms across North Yorkshire.

The strategy intentionally acknowledges and confirms a commitment to address stigma and discrimination associated with substance use: *“People who use substances and people who experience harmful patterns of substance use are citizens of North Yorkshire”*.

It confirms that partners will collectively take a public health approach, balancing law enforcement responsibilities with compassionate leadership, policy, and practice.

The new strategy will therefore improve experience and outcomes for the North Yorkshire population, by having one collective strategy that ensures that partners:

- Champion and advocate for supportive, compassionate, non-stigmatising communities across North Yorkshire;
- Work alongside people who use substances; people who experience harmful patterns of substance use; our communities; our assets; and our services;

Substances undoubtedly cause harms. Our commitment to the population of North Yorkshire is:

*“We will reduce harms associated with substance use across North Yorkshire – putting people, health and communities at the centre”*.

**Section 4. Involvement and consultation** (What involvement and consultation has been done regarding the proposal and what are the results? What consultation will be needed and how will it be done?)

The priorities set out within the draft strategy have been informed by:

- Published [needs assessments](#);
- Previously completed and [published formal consultations](#);
- Previous and bespoke engagement and/ or consultation led by partner organisations with people across North Yorkshire – refer to “what insight has informed the priorities” in each Chapter”;
- Feedback from people engaged with North Yorkshire Horizons and North Yorkshire RISE – specialist adult and young people’s drug and alcohol services for North Yorkshire;

- Feedback from North Yorkshire Connected Spaces (Harrogate group) – people with lived and living experience of substance use;
- [Leaders Unlocked 'Big Conversation'](#).

There will be 12-week public consultation on the draft strategy between February 2024 and April 2024. The consultation will seek to gather views and feedback from people across North Yorkshire, including any priority groups identified by national evidence and within this EIA. The consultation will provide people with an opportunity to review the draft strategy in a range of formats. People will be invited to feed back on the draft strategy in a range of formats that meet their needs.

Access to the draft strategy:

- Online copy of the draft strategy
- Online video of the draft strategy
- Paper copies of the strategy in a range of community venues
- Online infographic of the draft strategy (young people)

Consultation formats:

Adults:

- Online survey
- Paper surveys

Young people:

- Online survey

**Section 5. What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost, or reduce costs?** Please explain briefly why this will be the result:

There is significant existing partnership investment in action to address substance use across North Yorkshire.

For example, c.£5m per annum investment from partner organisations supports services and interventions to meet the needs of people who experience harmful patterns of substance use.

North Yorkshire Council commissions the local specialist adult and young people's drug and alcohol services (North Yorkshire Horizons and North Yorkshire RISE), and will benefit from £2.4 million [additional investment](#) between 2021-2025 to expand and strengthen these services for the benefit of the North Yorkshire population as part of the Government's Drug Strategy response to the Dame Carol Black Review. A number of the commitments set out within the draft strategy have benefited from this additional funding – for example: [Drink Drug Hub](#) has been established; [North Yorkshire Connected Spaces](#) has been established; and we continue to expand provision of Naloxone - the opiate overdose antidote medication - in line with [national policy](#).

The Council recently published a [Key Decision](#) which confirms plans to implement a new substance use service arrangement from 1 October 2025, which will be delivered by a multi-agency transformation partnership led by the SRO. Governance will be managed through the council’s Procurement Assurance Board.

The draft strategy includes new ambitions – which may require additional resourcing, or changes to the ways in which existing resources are deployed. Delivery of the strategy (and all associated decisions) will be managed by the Drug and Alcohol Action Team and overseen by the multi-agency Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board (chaired by Cllr. Harrison). Individual partner investment decisions will be referred to their organisation for approval, monitoring and reporting.

Section 6. How will this proposal affect people with protected characteristics?	No impact	Make things better	Make things worse	Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.
Age		X		<p>This is the first all-age strategy that combines partnership ambitions to address the needs of all people in North Yorkshire who are impacted by harmful patterns of substance use.</p> <p>The draft strategy outlines ongoing commitment and action by enforcement partners to reduce supply of substances to all people across North Yorkshire, including sale of alcohol by retailers to under 18’s.</p> <p>The Council commissions specialist substance use services for all people who could benefit from treatment, harm reduction and recovery support for harmful patterns of substance use across North Yorkshire. The adult service is commissioned for people aged 18 years and over, and the young people’s service is commissioned for young people aged 10-19, and up to 24 years. The published drugs needs assessment confirms that the age profile of people in engaged in the adult service mainly reflects the national picture, with the exception that both men and women in treatment locally are more likely to be aged under 30 years (20% men vs national average of 15%, 22% women vs 20% nationally). Two thirds of people in treatment in North Yorkshire (68% women and 65% men) are aged 30-49 years. A transition policy and protocol is in place between the young people and adults services, to ensure effective transfer of support if a young person requires continued specialist service support into adulthood. The adult service has also worked with health partners to develop pathways for people who require end of life care, including substance use treatment – predominantly for alcohol.</p> <p>The draft strategy chapter on prevention (achieve a generational shift in demand) is predominantly focussed on young people and families.</p> <p>One of the key commitments in the strategy is to conduct specific and bespoke research into substance use amongst young people across North Yorkshire, to improve partnership intelligence, and policy and planning.</p>

			Implementation of the strategy should improve the experience and outcomes for all ages.
Disability	X		<p>This is the first all-age strategy that combines partnership ambitions to address the needs of all people in North Yorkshire who are impacted by harmful patterns of substance use.</p> <p>The published drugs needs assessment confirms that overall, the evidence indicates that people with learning disabilities are less likely to develop harmful patterns of substance use than the general population. However, the official guidance suggests that when people with learning disabilities do drink alcohol, there is an increased risk that they will develop a problem with it. People with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people who live independently can be at risk of having their home taken over by drug gangs as bases for selling drugs and places for people to use drugs, a practice commonly called 'cuckooing' and an issue of particular concern in North Yorkshire.</p> <p>The draft strategy chapter on supply addresses ambitions and actions to tackle serious organised crime across North Yorkshire.</p> <p>The published drugs needs assessment confirms that adults entering specialist treatment were recorded as more likely to be long term sick or disabled (29% vs 21% nationally). The specialist adult and young people's services assess and respond to individual needs, and will deliver interventions and support in a wide range of community settings as well as within a person's home if applicable, to maximise accessibility.</p> <p>The strategy will benefit the North Yorkshire population and should not disadvantage people with disabilities.</p>
Sex		X	<p>This is the first all-age strategy that combines partnership ambitions to address the needs of all people in North Yorkshire who are impacted by harmful patterns of substance use.</p> <p>The published drugs needs assessment confirms that women are under-represented in specialist services nationally. Almost three quarters of people in treatment in North Yorkshire in 2020/21 (72%) were men compared with just over one quarter (28%) of women. This is particularly true for people who access support for alcohol and non-opiates, where just 23% of local people in treatment were women compared to a national average of 30%.</p> <p>The published drugs needs assessment also confirms that young girls in particular report high exposure to online drug dealing.</p> <p>Engagement feedback (from e.g. North Yorkshire Connected Spaces) confirms that women, and women who are mothers face additional barriers to accessing support for harmful patterns of substance use. This can be exacerbated if they are also engaged in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>The draft strategy references the relationship with other key strategies and associated governance that are leading on partnership action that will benefit women and girls, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Abuse Strategy;</li> <li>• Serious Violence Duty;</li> <li>• Violence Against Women and Girls and Women's Whole System Approach;</li> <li>• Being Young in Yorkshire;</li> </ul>

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NY Early Help Strategy.</li> </ul> <p>Implementation of the strategy should improve the experience and outcomes for all of the population, including women and girls.</p>
Race	X			<p>This is the first all-age strategy that combines partnership ambitions to address the needs of all people in North Yorkshire who are impacted by harmful patterns of substance use.</p> <p>The published drugs needs assessment confirms that the vast majority (96%) of people engaged with adult specialist services are White British. This is not inconsistent with the profile of the North Yorkshire population, but suggests an under-representation of engagement by ethnic minority groups compared to the national picture.</p> <p>The strategy will benefit the North Yorkshire population and should not disadvantage ethnic minority groups.</p>
Gender reassignment	X			<p>This is the first all-age strategy that combines partnership ambitions to address the needs of all people in North Yorkshire who are impacted by harmful patterns of substance use.</p> <p>The Council commissions specialist substance use services for all people who could benefit from treatment, harm reduction and recovery support for harmful patterns of substance use across North Yorkshire.</p> <p>The strategy will benefit the North Yorkshire population and should not disadvantage people with gender reassignment.</p>
Sexual orientation	X			<p>This is the first all-age strategy that combines partnership ambitions to address the needs of all people in North Yorkshire who are impacted by harmful patterns of substance use.</p> <p>The Council commissions specialist substance use services for all people who could benefit from treatment, harm reduction and recovery support for harmful patterns of substance use across North Yorkshire.</p> <p>The strategy will benefit the North Yorkshire population and should not disadvantage people of any sexual orientation.</p>
Religion or belief	X			<p>This is the first all-age strategy that combines partnership ambitions to address the needs of all people in North Yorkshire who are impacted by harmful patterns of substance use.</p> <p>The Council commissions specialist substance use services for all people who could benefit from treatment, harm reduction and recovery support for harmful patterns of substance use across North Yorkshire. The adult service promotes and facilitates access to faith based mutual aid groups such as Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous, however access to these groups is open to all and not restricted to any religious or belief group.</p> <p>The strategy will benefit the North Yorkshire population and should not disadvantage people of any religion or belief.</p>
Pregnancy or maternity	X			<p>This is the first all-age strategy that combines partnership ambitions to address the needs of all people in North Yorkshire who are impacted by harmful patterns of substance use.</p> <p>The Council commissions specialist substance use services for all people who could benefit from treatment, harm reduction and recovery support for harmful patterns of substance use across North Yorkshire. Both services assess and respond to individual</p>



				<p>needs, and there is a multi-agency maternity pathway in place across specialist services and maternity services to address the needs of pregnant women who use opiates, and their children. The adult service also supplies safe medication storage for parents who are receiving an opiate-substitute prescription. There is also a partnership protocol on Substance Use in Parents – available on the Children’s Safeguarding Board website.</p> <p>The draft strategy chapter on prevention (achieve a generational shift in demand) is predominantly focussed on young people and families.</p> <p>The strategy will benefit the North Yorkshire population and should maintain effective, joined up pregnancy and maternity care by people who experience harmful patterns of substance use and their children.</p>
Marriage or civil partnership	X			<p>This is the first all-age strategy that combines partnership ambitions to address the needs of all people in North Yorkshire who are impacted by harmful patterns of substance use.</p> <p>The Council commissions specialist substance use services for all people who could benefit from treatment, harm reduction and recovery support for harmful patterns of substance use across North Yorkshire. Both services assess and respond to individual needs, and independently and confidentially support people who are in a relationship.</p> <p>The strategy will benefit the North Yorkshire population and should not disadvantage people who are married or in a civil partnership.</p>

<b>Section 7. How will this proposal affect people who...</b>	<b>No impact</b>	<b>Make things better</b>	<b>Make things worse</b>	<b>Why will it have this effect? Provide evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.</b>
...live in a rural area?		X		<p>This is the first all-age strategy that combines partnership ambitions to address the needs of all people in North Yorkshire who are impacted by harmful patterns of substance use.</p> <p>The Council commissions specialist substance use services for all people who could benefit from treatment, harm reduction and recovery support for harmful patterns of substance use across North Yorkshire. Both services assess and respond to individual needs and deliver interventions and support in a wide range of community settings as well as within a person’s home if applicable to maximise accessibility. Specialist adult services are also available in GP practices and Pharmacies. The adult service also delivers interventions and groups via digital means/ online.</p> <p>Services are also complimented by digital resources such as <a href="#">Drink Drug Hub</a> and <a href="#">Wake Up North Yorkshire</a>, which are accessible by all people across North Yorkshire.</p> <p>The strategy recognises the challenges of the rural geography of North Yorkshire. Local responses to local and national consultations that advocate for the needs of people across North Yorkshire who experience substance use harms reinforce that different approaches can be required in rural areas.</p>
...have a low income?		X		<p>This is the first all-age strategy that combines partnership ambitions to address the needs of all people in North Yorkshire who are</p>

				<p>impacted by harmful patterns of substance use. The draft strategy intentionally acknowledges and confirms a commitment to address stigma and discrimination associated with substance use: <i>“People who use substances and people who experience harmful patterns of substance use are citizens of North Yorkshire”</i>.</p> <p>The published drugs needs assessment confirms that various health and social issues including socioeconomic deprivation, mental and physical health problems, stigma, trauma and homelessness may predispose people to and be exacerbated by harmful patterns of drug use. There are strong links between illicit drugs and health inequalities and poverty. Illicit drug misuse is a significant risk factor for a number of acute and chronic health conditions, reduced life expectancy, lower quality of life, and a range of social and economic issues such as unemployment, homelessness, exposure to criminal activity, violence, and modern slavery. Illicit drug misuse is associated with cyclical exploitation i.e., exploited individuals recruiting and targeting other vulnerable people. Due to inherent complexity, a public health approach should be adopted which seeks to tackle population level risk factors, which may predispose to harmful patterns of drug use, including adverse childhood experiences and socioeconomic deprivation, and institute evidence-based measures to mitigate drug-related harm – including provision of excellent services that respond to the human rights of people who experience substance misuse</p> <p>The Dame Carol Black Review reinforces that lots of people experience substance misuse for all sorts of reasons. Harmful patterns of substance use must be viewed through a health inequalities and social justice lens – becoming dependent on substances is not a lifestyle choice – everyone has their story, as well as personal assets, a contribution to make and an ambition for their life. What people put into their bodies, how active people live their lives, where people were born and live and the associated social and environmental factors all play a role in a range of health conditions. We expect nothing less than personalised, compassionate, dignified, excellent care during and following the diagnosis of a wide range of health conditions. The same must be true for people experiencing substance misuse.</p> <p>The Council commissions specialist substance use services for all people who could benefit from treatment, harm reduction and recovery support for harmful patterns of substance use across North Yorkshire. Both services assess and respond to individual needs and deliver interventions and support in a wide range of community settings as well as within a person’s home if applicable to maximise accessibility. Specialist adult services are also available in GP practices and Pharmacies. The adult service also delivers interventions and groups via digital means/ online. We have also established a multiple disadvantage outreach offer within Scarborough and Harrogate, as part of the specialist adult service. The service also works closely with benefits and employment support services, to maximise uptake of a range of benefits and increase unpaid and paid employment opportunities.</p>
<p>...are carers (unpaid family or friend)?</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>The draft strategy confirms that support arrangements for significant others who are supporting people with harmful patterns of substance use need to improve – based on previous engagement and consultation.</p> <p>The strategy references the relationship with the North Yorkshire Carer’s Strategy.</p>

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.... armed forces community (including family members) and veterans			<p>The published drug needs assessment confirms that people who have served in the armed forces are more at risk of developing harmful patterns of substance use.</p> <p>The council commissioned adult specialist service delivers services in Catterick Garrison. Humankind (the lead provider of the commissioned specialist substance use service for adults and young people) also deliver a MoD funded service in Catterick Garrison.</p> <p>The strategy references the relationship with the Armed Forces Covenant.</p>
...criminal or sex worker background			<p>The published drugs needs assessment confirms that drug using sex workers may rely on sex work primarily to fund their drug use. The research literature concludes that sex work is very complex and that tackling problematic drug and alcohol use is likely to be one of many issues for sex workers that need to be addressed simultaneously. The research suggests that a harm reduction approach (as opposed to a full recovery-focused approach) has the potential to support sex workers but that there is no clear evidence on what treatment works for this target group. There is no specific interventions for sex workers in North Yorkshire. However, the Women’s Centre in York provides an outreach service (also available to women in North Yorkshire) to women, including sex workers.</p> <p>The Council commissions specialist substance use services for all people who could benefit from treatment, harm reduction and recovery support for harmful patterns of substance use across North Yorkshire. Both services deliver dedicated and bespoke support offers to people who are engaged in the criminal justice system – such as arrest referral and court-ordered rehabilitation requirements.</p> <p>The effective support services chapter references action to support people engaged in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>The strategy also references the relationship with other criminal justice related strategies such as the North Yorkshire Police Drugs Strategy.</p>

<b>Section 8. Geographic impact – Please detail where the impact will be (please tick all that apply)</b>	
North Yorkshire wide	The strategy is a county-wide strategy.
Craven district	-
Hambleton district	-
Harrogate district	The strategy details the need for a ‘place-based action’ approach to supporting people impacted by substance use facing multiple disadvantages in Harrogate based on a range of factors.
Richmondshire district	-
Ryedale district	-
Scarborough district	The strategy details a ‘place-based action approach to supporting communities impacted by substance use lead by the police called Clear, Hold, Build. Barrowcliff in Scarborough has been identified as an area that the police will deliver this initiative.
Selby district	-

<b>If you have ticked one or more districts, will specific town(s)/village(s) be particularly impacted? If so, please specify below.</b>	
Harrogate town and Barrowcliff, Scarborough.	

<b>Section 9. Will the proposal affect anyone more because of a combination of protected characteristics? (e.g., older women or young gay men) State what you think the effect may be and why, providing evidence from engagement, consultation and/or service user data or demographic information etc.</b>
<p>Harms associated with substance use affect individuals, families, and communities within North Yorkshire however, evidence suggest that those facing an intersection of protective characteristics as well as multiple disadvantages often face additional challenges with accessing specialist support services, experiencing exploitation, as well as challenges with accessing accommodation and employment.</p> <p>Through engagement with people with lived and living experience of substance use, it was identified that stigma related to substance use, including the language that is commonly (and sometimes unconsciously) used to describe people who use substances, makes it more difficult to reduce harms for individuals and communities, and improve outcomes. The strategy seeks to tackle stigma associated with drug and alcohol use.</p>

<b>Section 10. Next steps to address the anticipated impact. Select one of the following options and explain why this has been chosen. (Remember: we have an anticipatory duty to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled people can access services and work for us)</b>	<b>Tick option chosen</b>
<b>1. No adverse impact - no major change needed to the proposal.</b> There is no potential for discrimination or adverse impact identified.	<b>X</b>
<b>2. Adverse impact - adjust the proposal -</b> The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We will change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, or we will achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people.	
<b>3. Adverse impact - continue the proposal -</b> The EIA identifies potential problems or missed opportunities. We cannot change our proposal to reduce or remove these adverse impacts, nor can we achieve our aim in another way which will not make things worse for people. (There must be compelling reasons for continuing with proposals which will have the most adverse impacts. Get advice from Legal Services)	
<b>4. Actual or potential unlawful discrimination - stop and remove the proposal –</b> The EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination. It must be stopped.	
<b>Explanation of why option has been chosen. (Include any advice given by Legal Services.)</b>	
<p>We do not believe the draft substance use strategy discriminates against people and communities and therefore have identified no adverse impacts within this EIA. We endeavour to ensure that during the planned strategy public consultation (February 2024 – April 2024) we seek the views of people that may be experiencing additional challenges relating to substance use harms, ensuring these are captured and the strategy is updated with any key areas underrepresented. The draft strategy will have a refinement period between May - June 2024 to utilise what is learnt from the consultation to update the strategy and all impact assessments that are linked.</p>	

The consultation seeks to gain feedback from the public, professionals, and targeted groups within the EIA such as young people, those identifying as female, those with a disability, those living in rural locations, those who identify as LGBTQ.

See Consultation Plan – (Appendix C)

**Section 11. If the proposal is to be implemented, how will you find out how it is really affecting people?** (How will you monitor and review the changes?)

The strategy, if adopted, will be supported by a delivery plan. The strategy outlines the key evidence of impact in each chapter. Partners will continue to review overall impact at population level through the following:

- (restricted access) Local [Outcomes Framework](#), available on [NDTMS.net](#)
- Feedback from people engaged with North Yorkshire Horizons and North Yorkshire RISE – specialist adult and young people’s drug and alcohol services for North Yorkshire;
- Feedback from North Yorkshire Connected Spaces (Harrogate group) – people with lived and living experience of substance use;
- Young People’s Insight Research
- Complaints
- Multi-agency Drug and Alcohol Action Team and Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board.

**Section 12. Action plan.** List any actions you need to take which have been identified in this EIA, including post implementation review to find out how the outcomes have been achieved in practice and what impacts there have been on people with protected characteristics.

Action	Lead	By when	Progress	Monitoring arrangements
Champion and advocate for supportive, compassionate, non-stigmatising communities across North Yorkshire;	Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board  Drug and Alcohol Action Team	Ongoing	Interface with all other key North Yorkshire Strategies is referenced in this draft Substance Use Strategy  Submitted responses to other local and national consultations	Completed  Completed
Work alongside people who use substances; people who experience harmful	Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board  Drug and Alcohol Action Team	Ongoing	Invested in North Yorkshire Connected Spaces – now represented on Drug and Alcohol Partnership	Ongoing

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patterns of substance use; our communities; our assets; and our services;			Board and Drug and Alcohol Action Team  Ongoing bespoke consultation on place-based action	
Undertake public consultation on draft strategy including aiming to reach under-represented groups as identified through EIA	Substance Use Strategy Editorial Group and Consultation Planning Group	Feb – April 2024	Plans in place ready for consultation launch, subject to approval	Via evaluation of responses
Update strategy and EIA in light of feedback received during consultation	Substance Use Strategy Editorial Group and Consultation Planning Group	May – June 2024	Not started	Via evaluation of responses
Regular review of EIA during delivery of strategy	Substance Use Strategy Editorial Group  Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board  Drug and Alcohol Action Team	Throughout strategy delivery period	Not started	Via governance groups, review of data, impact and feedback

**Section 13. Summary** Summarise the findings of your EIA, including impacts, recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

The content and priorities outlined within the draft Substance Use Strategy have been shaped by the findings of this EIA, [published needs assessments](#), national policy and guidance, and the voice of adults, young people and professionals across North Yorkshire.

There will be 12-week public consultation on the draft strategy between February 2024 and April 2024. The consultation will seek to gather views and feedback from people across North Yorkshire, including any priority groups identified by national evidence and within this EIA. The consultation will provide people with an opportunity to review the draft strategy in a range of formats. People will be invited to feed back on the draft strategy in a range of formats that meet their needs.

The draft strategy and EIA will subsequently be updated between May - June 2024, based on consultation feedback, to ensure that partners can deliver the vision for the whole population.

**Section 14. Sign off section**

This full EIA was completed by: Angela Hall (Public Health Manager), Dolly Cook (Service Development Manager), Public Health, Health and Adult Services, North Yorkshire Council.

**Completion date: 21.12.23**

**Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature):**

**Date:**