

Substance Use Strategy 2024-2026 Consultation Plan Summary

Background

The draft North Yorkshire all-age substance use strategy has been developed by several partner agencies working together to reduce the harms associated with substance use (drugs and alcohol).

Building on this work, approval is being sought to run a public consultation from 2nd February 2024 to 30th April 2024 (12 weeks). The consultation will aim to gather views and feedback from:

- The public (adults and young people)
- People with lived and living experience of harms associated with substance use be that themselves, family members, a loved one or friend
- Workforce and professionals
- Armed forces and veterans
- Specifically like to hear from people from ethnic minority backgrounds, people that identify as LGBTQ, women, rural residents or have a disability.

Aims

The consultation has several key aims covering the following areas:

- **Strategy content:** To gather feedback on the content of the strategy including whether the content of each of the key chapters reflects and responds to the key issues in North Yorkshire and identify gaps.
- **Tone and language:** To understand the residents of North Yorkshire's views on the strategy's language and tone and whether they perceive this to be non-discriminatory.
- **Measuring success:** To invite people to give their views on what success looks like and how they would like us to measure success against the strategy.
- **Presentation:** To gather feedback on the layout, design, and accessibility of the draft strategy (for example is it easy to read, understand and clear)

- **Working together:** To understand the views of people with lived experience of substance use on what good co-production looks like and to explore and encourage ongoing involvement in design, development and delivery of the strategy.

Stakeholders

As substance use impacts individuals, families, and communities it has been agreed that we will consult with the wider public (adults and young people; a mixture of ages) of North Yorkshire to capture their views of the approach we are taking to reduce harms.

Throughout the consultation, we will seek the views of people directly experiencing harms associated with substance use (young people and adults), their families, friends, and carers.

We will also seek the views of professionals working in services that support individuals and their families affected by substance use.

Our Equality Impact Assessment findings to date have highlighted that we need to ensure we hear feedback during consultation from people of different ages as well as different genders, ethnic origins, and locations. We are also interested to hear from people who have a disability as well as people who identify as LGBTQ.

Methodology

The strategy for review will be available as:

- PDF draft strategy document available online and in paper form to read
- Short video with strategy overview hosted online

We will capture views via:

- Online and paper surveys (SNAP)

We will engage with people via:

- Access to the strategy, a short 5 minute video providing overview of the chapters as well as a survey for the duration of the 12 weeks online on the NYC website
- Focus groups showcasing visual version of the strategy chapters relevant to young people, with young people – partner organisation led

Appendix C

- Focus groups at existing community groups as appropriate (Veterans groups, ethnic minority community groups, women’s groups, LGBTQ groups, lived experience groups) – partner led.
- Paper version of strategy and survey available at key community spaces ie) library, policy custody etc

Raise awareness of strategy consultation via:

- Press release
- NYC and partners: social media, email mail shot, ICB text service,
- Poster with QR code

The partnership consultation task and finish group will continue to review, refine, and update the plan during consultation as required, for example to provide further opportunities to reach specific groups, depending on initial response levels.

A full schedule of the consultation will be developed prior to the launch of the consultation.

Risks

The key risks and mitigations around the consultation are:

Risk	Mitigation
<p>Several consultations / engagements are ongoing over <u>similar</u> time periods – potential for confusion or lack of engagement. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Strategy Consultation • North Yorkshire Housing Options process (live) • Joint Health and wellbeing strategy consultation 	<p>This consultation will start 2nd February 2023 so consultation periods will not fully overlap, however residents could have consultation fatigue and we may see reduced engagement. Proactive and targeted communications will be a mitigation to this.</p>
<p>The EIA has highlighted potential barriers to reaching individuals with one or more protected characteristics with the consultation, and the importance of their voice. Groups identified include women and girls, LGBTQIA+ communities, neurodiversities, people using substances and those facing multiple disadvantages.</p>	<p>The consultation group have identified key stakeholders and groups that can support with extended reach. Variety of methods to cater for different preferences – written strategy document, video and visual infographic (young people), surveys online and in-person, accessing groups that people are already attending.</p>

Appendix C

<p>Given the consultation will be taking place over the winter season, there is a risk that poor weather may impact on attendance at events</p>	<p>There will be a varied way for people to engage with the consultation including virtual methods for those that don't feel able to travel in the winter months. The consultation will be available for people to complete in their local communities such as library, citizens advice centre etc.</p>
<p>People may disclose personal challenges with substance use or its effects on their lives.</p>	<p>This will be mitigated by the types of questions that we will ask (specific to strategy content). We will also ensure that at the end of the survey there is information for participants on local specialist support available to them should they know someone or require further support.</p>