

Written evidence submitted by Turning Point Scotland (DRU0057)

1. Turning Point Scotland plays a significant role in the delivery of alcohol and other drug treatment and recovery services across Scotland. We are the forefront of work to prevent harm, reduce deaths, and support recovery.
2. Our range of services in Glasgow offer harm reduction, crisis and stabilisation support in both community and residential settings, as well as moving-on support as people progress in their recovery. In Edinburgh we provide recovery focused support as part of the North East Recovery Hub, in North Ayrshire our Prevention, Early Intervention and Recovery (PEAR) service connects people to the support that they need, and we are one of the main third sector providers working across Aberdeenshire. We have developed innovative approaches to support that integrates work around problematic drug and alcohol use with homelessness services (Housing First, Glasgow Homelessness Service) and with criminal and community justice services (218, Turnaround), and are delivering near-fatal overdose response Tests of Change in partnership with the Drug Death Task Force.
3. In 2019, just under three years ago, we submitted evidence to the Scottish Affairs Committee inquiry into problematic drug use in Scotland. Our written evidence was extensive; it summarised a wide range of research and reports as well as our experience of working to prevent and respond to drug related harm. Our evidence was reflected in the inquiry's report and in the recommendations that it made. We will not be submitting new evidence to this committee inquiry because what we said then remains true now.
4. Later that same year, the Health Committee published its report on Drugs Policy, echoing many of the recommendations made by the Scottish Affairs Committee. We have since had both parts of Professor Dame Carol Black's independent review of drugs, a report by the Scottish Drug Deaths Task Force on drug law reform, and – in Scotland – at least 3,325 more drug related deaths.
5. We will not be submitting new evidence to this committee inquiry because these questions have been asked and answered too many times. We have produced a short film to summarise and explain some of the key points we have raised in previously submitted evidence; we hope this will be of some use to the Committee in your considerations:
<https://vimeo.com/689377566/e25694f226>
6. We implore this committee, and the UK government, to use their resources to move this conversation forward, to at least explore what has stopped us implementing the recommendations already made. While the focus remains on what the problem is and what

(DRU0057)

has to be done, we must stand aside, but we remain ready to engage with future work that helps us to come together and explore ways forward.

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