

## Drug treatment

DrugScope believes that anyone experiencing a drug problem should have access to high quality, evidence-based treatment. Needle exchange, substitute prescribing, detoxification services, twelve step programmes, structured day services, residential rehabilitation and other services all have a role to play. The key thing is to ensure that people are getting the right service for them, delivered in the right way and at the right time. There are many routes into drug dependency and so there need to be a variety of routes out of it.

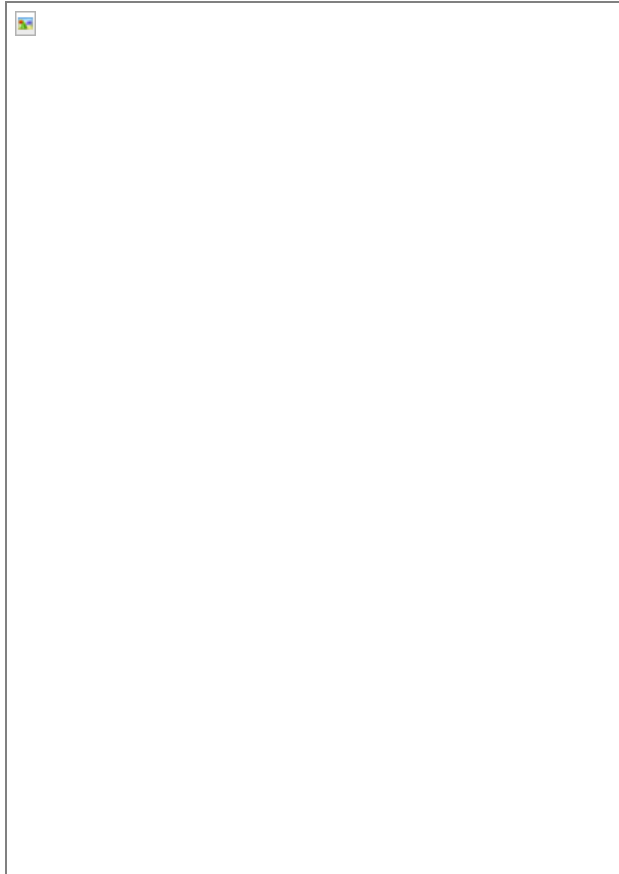
### **Drug treatment at the crossroads: what it's for, where it's at and how to make it even better.**

*'There is a fundamental debate taking place in our field. We need to lift our heads up from technical discussion and defend our right to develop philosophies of care which are about shaping recovery ...'*

**Ian Wardle, Chief Executive, Lifeline**

But there is no room for complacency. While drugs like methadone have a clear role in drug treatment - and are recommended by the National Institute of Clinical Excellence for opiate dependency - they do not directly address the causes and contexts of drug dependency. The challenge - as explained in this report - is to develop policy and services that view drug dependency as a social policy issue, not simply a medical one, while embodying the best clinical and therapeutic practice. Packed with direct quotations from people involved with drug services, the report also sketches out the contours of a fuller and more ambitious vision of recovery.

Please click [here](#) to download a PDF (2.1MB) of the report or view it in our document reader:



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Please click [here](#) for a link to the press release accompanying the report launch.

If you have any comments or views on the report we would like to hear from you. Please contact Dr Marcus Roberts at [marcusr@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:marcusr@drugscope.org.uk)

### **Prisons Minister responds to *Drug treatment at the crossroads***

Prisons Minister David Hanson has written to DrugScope chief executive Martin Barnes regarding *Drug treatment at the crossroads*. In his letter, the Minister commends the report for providing 'a welcome contribution to the complex debate about the balance of drug treatment options.'

You can read the Minister's letter in full [here](#).

## **Smoking and drug treatment**

In a recent submission to a Department of Health consultation, DrugScope argued that drug treatment services could do more work to support service users to access smoking cessation and to minimise smoking related harms.

## **Related Links**

DrugScope

[Press release: Drug treatment at the crossroads, where next?](#) 13 March 2009

DrugScope

[Tobacco control and smoking cessation](#)

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[Who is driving Tory drug policy?](#)

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[DrugScope/ICM poll into attitudes to drug treatment](#)

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[The new abstentionists \(PDF 141KB\)](#) ddx

For more information please contact [Marcus Roberts](#)