

## Press release

### **The Department of Health and Social Care has launched its first survey of the frontline drug and alcohol treatment and recovery workforce**

Today, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) announced the launch of a new national survey to gather crucial insights from individuals working in drug and alcohol services, support and commissioning. The survey aims to understand the experiences and support needs of the workforce, following Dame Carol Black's independent review of drugs. This drew attention to the challenges faced in the sector, including high caseloads, limited training opportunities, and job insecurity.

The DHSC is inviting all employees in local authority-funded drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services, commissioning teams, and those working in lived experience recovery organisations to participate. The survey seeks to answer critical questions such as:

- \* What are the biggest challenges faced by these workers?
- \* What motivates them in their roles?
- \* What support do they need to thrive professionally?

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

Minister for Public Health and Prevention, Andrew Gwynne, said: “Anyone struggling with drug and alcohol dependence should be able to access the help and support they need to live a fulfilling life. This can only happen with a strong workforce that is fit for the future. I urge people in the sector to have your say so we can work together to improve working conditions and services for people”.

Information collected in the survey will inform the implementation of actions in DHSC's [10-year strategic plan for the drug and alcohol treatment and recovery workforce \(2024-2034\)](#). This plan aims to transform and strengthen the workforce over the next ten years. This includes actions to improve recruitment and retention, and defining and enhancing training and skills across core roles. The strategic plan ultimately aims to improve the lives of people accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and the dedicated professionals who support them.

The survey will complement the national drug and alcohol treatment and recovery workforce census led by NHS Benchmarking Network annually. This exercise, which has taken place annually since 2022, seeks information from employers to understand the size and composition of the workforce. This new staff survey will delve deeper into the experiences, challenges, and support needs of individual employees.

The DHSC encourages widespread participation to ensure the survey accurately reflects the diverse experiences within the workforce. Those who have already completed the survey are urged to share it with their colleagues.

The survey closes on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Please contact [pa-daaworkforce@ipsos.com](mailto:pa-daaworkforce@ipsos.com) for more information.