

Re: National Alcohol Harm Strategy Document.

Prof. Audrey Mullender, Warwick University, forwarded me your consultation document, as alcohol misuse is my specialist research area.

It is pleasing to know that a strategy is being planned, and I hope that special attention will be given to my research area, which is women with drinking problems. This group of problem drinkers, which is composed of several sub-groups, is especially in need of recognition and appropriate support, treatment and education.

My PhD thesis on women with drinking problems examined life histories of women alcohol misusers, and explored the aetiological roots of women's alcohol misuse, and the ways in which they achieved sobriety. This revealed significant new data, especially within sub-groups of problem drinkers such as lesbian women and women who had been victims of child/adult abuse and domestic violence. It highlighted the serious lack of support available for women problem-drinkers. I am about to proceed with two new research projects on primary depression among women problem drinkers, and also investigating predictors for drinking among lesbians in the UK.

I have been a Social Work & Health Care lecturer for the past 12 years, and for 8 years worked in a regional addictions inter-disciplinary team. I am also a trained journalist.

If you are considering appointing consultative positions or roles in the drawing up of the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, I would be pleased to hear further from you.

Dr Judy Davison
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