

AIM

To reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs to individuals, their families and the wider community by:

- reducing drug use amongst young people and preventing them from becoming the problematic drug users of tomorrow;
- having a sustained impact on the supply of Class A drugs to the UK and availability within its communities;
- targeting drug misusing offenders via the Criminal Justice System to engage them in treatment and reduce drug related crime; and
- providing treatment for people with drug problems to help them live healthy and crime-free lives.

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

1. *Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs (as measured by the Drug Harm Index encompassing measures of the availability of Class A drugs and drug related crime) including substantially increasing the number of drug misusing offenders entering treatment through the Criminal Justice System.*
2. *Increase the participation of problem drug users in drug treatment programmes by 100% by 2008 and increase year on year the proportion of users successfully sustaining or completing treatment programmes.*
3. *Reduce the use of Class A drugs and the frequent use of any illicit drug among all young people under the age of 25, especially by the most vulnerable young people.*

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERY?

The Home Secretary takes the lead on target 1, with the support of the Secretary of State for Health, the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury and the Foreign Secretary. The Secretary of State for Health has lead responsibility for delivery of target 2. Within the Home Secretary's overall responsibility for the drugs strategy, the Secretary of State for Education and Skills will focus particularly on target 3, taking lead responsibility on policy for preventing young people from becoming problematic drug users and sharing responsibility with the Home Secretary for the target's delivery.

