

Box 1. National policies in England and Scotland for reducing the incidence of violence, self-harm, drug/alcohol misuse or other psychosocial problems

National policies in Scotland have been implemented to reduce gang violence, anti-social behaviour, and drug or alcohol misuse.(1-3) In 2005, the Scottish government included promotion of public health related to reduced drinking as part of their Licensing Act.(4) In the same year, they introduced ‘Intensive Support and Monitoring Services’ for young offenders (a system which had already been in place for 4 years in England) to improve education and training opportunities, provide crisis support, and ultimately prevent re-offending.(5, 6) In 2008, police forces in Scotland set up contracts with gangs as a whole, exchanging the so-called ‘clean slate’ for individualized psychosocial support.(1) The Scottish government also launched a new strategy on drug misuse which shifted emphasis from harm reduction through substitute medication, to complete recovery through a person-centred approach.(7) This strategy also included prevention through education (of children and parents) and addressed broader elements of deprivation and access to wider public services. The English government established Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns and Tackling Violent Crime Programmes in 2004,(8, 9) which targeted high-crime and disorderly areas for higher levels of policing. Both countries have introduced legislation or policies to tackle disorderly behaviour and under-age selling of alcohol during 2005-2011.(4, 10) For example, both countries enforced increased penalties for bar and shop staff for selling alcohol to minors, and fixed closing times of bars and clubs.

Both England and Scotland introduced programmes that attempted to improve mental health and tackle deprivation. The Scottish government launched the National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well-Being in 2002.(11) This programme’s actions included the ‘See Me’ campaign programme to raise awareness about mental health issues and reduce

related stigma,(12) ‘Choose Life’ which engaged with the media on suicide reporting and which aimed to reduce the suicide rate by 20%,(13) and the ‘Breathing Space’ hotline, which aimed to provide support and promote recovery from mental health problems (14), particularly for young men. England launched similar initiatives to See Me, Choose Life and Breathing Space, 4 years later.(15, 16). The Scottish government introduced ‘More Choices, More Chances’ in 2006, a strategy that aimed to reduce the proportion of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (‘NEET’) within the next 2 years,(17) and ‘Cashback for Communities’ in 2008, which redirected seized money through criminal activity to fund activities for local youth.(18) Meanwhile, the English government introduced ‘Activity Agreement’ and ‘Entry to Learning’ pilots,(19) which provided personal advisers and sometimes financial allowances also in an attempt to reduce the proportion of young people with NEET status.

Introduction of organizational changes in services for vulnerable children occurred around 2005 in England and Scotland. Every Child Matters (ECM; in 2003) and the Children Act 2004 introduced new services such as Sure Start and children’s centres to provide a one-stop shop for services for young children, and new policy on information sharing. In Scotland, Getting it Right for Every Child (GIFREC; 2005) focussed on improving coordination of existing services.(20-23)

Policies that aim to reduce risk-taking behaviours in parents may also have a bearing on the drug or alcohol use by adolescents.(24-26) The ‘Hidden Harm’ report in 2003, which summarized findings from a 3-year enquiry into the effect of parental substance abuse on children, triggered reforms in England and the three other devolved UK nations (25). Both England and Scotland responded by integrating actions for these children into the ECM and GIFREC programmes. Scotland also established a cross-government implementation group

and published 'Getting Our Priorities Right', guidance for health professionals on how to respond to parents who misuse substances, and how to respond to their children.(26) An evaluation of the responses to Hidden Harm, 'Hidden Harm: Three Years On', recommended that other UK nations should consider following Scotland's lead on their approach to tackling parental drug misuse.(27)

1. Violence Reduction Unit. The Violence Must Stop: Glasgow's Community Initiative to Reduce Violence. Second year report. 2010.
2. Conaglen P. GP. Violence Prevention: A Public Health Priority. In: Scottish Public Health Network, editor. Glasgow,2014.
3. Cunningham L. Practice Note 31. Hamilton Safer Streets Initiative. 2011.
4. Licensing Act 2005.
5. Boyle J. Evaluation of Intensive Support and Monitoring Services (ISMS) within the Children's Hearings System. The Scottish Government,, 2008.
6. Emily Gray ET, Simon Merrington, Colin Roberts. ISSP: The final report. Youth Justice Board for England and Wales,, 2005.
7. Scottish Government. The road to recovery: a new approach to tackling Scotland's drug problem. Edinburgh: Scottish Government; 2008.
8. Delivering safer communities: a guide to effective partnership working : guidance for crime and disorder reduction partnerships and community safety partnerships. London: Police and Crime Standards Directorate, Home Office; 2007.
9. Mark A Bellis ZA, Karen Hughes. Effects of the Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns and the Licensing Act 2003 on Violence: A preliminary assessment of Accident and Emergency attendances in Wirral. 2006.
10. Licensing Act 2003.
11. National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Well-Being. Action plan 2003-2006. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive; 2003.
12. Fiona Myers AW, Indiya Whitehead, Allyson McCollam, Laura McBryde, Vanessa Pinfold, Graham Thornicroft, Rona McBrierty, Laurence Wilson,. Evaluation of 'see me' - the National Scottish Campaign Against the Stigma and Discrimination Associated with Mental Ill-Health. 2009.
13. Evaluations of the first phase of 'Choose Life'. The Executive's Suicide Prevention Strategy 2003-06. Scottish Executive;, 2006.
14. Gavin Russell. Breathing Space. Staying Connected. Issue 1. 2005 [09.12.14]. Available from: <http://infoscotland-lb.civiccomputing.com/bspace/files/staying-connected-01.pdf>.
15. Mind; Rethink Mental Illness. Time to Change. About us. 2008. Available from: <http://www.time-to-change.org.uk/about-us>.
16. Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM). History of CALM. 2014.
17. The Scottish Government. More Choices, More Chances. 2006.
18. The Scottish Government. Cashback for Communities 2015 [25th November 2015]. Available from: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Justice/policies/community-engagement/cashback>.
19. Department for Education. What works re-engaging young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)? Summary of evidence from the activity agreement pilots and the entry to learning pilots 2010 [25th November 2015]. Available from: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/182022/DFE-RR065.pdf.
20. HM Government. Every child matters: change for children. The Stationery Office; 2004.

21. Getting it right for every child : implementation plan. Edinburgh: Scottish Executive; 2006.
22. Gonzalez-Izquierdo A, Cortina-Borja M, Woodman J, Mok J, McGhee J, Taylor J, et al. Maltreatment or violence-related injury in children and adolescents admitted to the NHS: comparison of trends in England and Scotland between 2005 and 2011. *BMJ open*. 2014;4(4).
23. HM Government. Information Sharing: Guidance for Practitioners and Managers. 2008.
24. Gonzalez-Izquierdo A, Ward A, Smith P, Walford C, Begent J, Ioannou Y, et al. Notifications for child safeguarding from an acute hospital in response to presentations to healthcare by parents. *Child: care, health and development*. 2014.
25. Hidden harm: responding to the needs of children of problem drug users. London: Home Office; 2003.
26. Getting our priorities right: good practice guidance for working with children and families affected by substance abuse. [Edinburgh]: Scottish Executive; 2003.
27. Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. Hidden Harm. Three Years On: Realities, Challenges and Opportunities. 2007.