

PE2024/G: Create a national, public information programme to raise awareness of the impacts of steroids, selective androgen receptor modulators, and other performance enhancing drugs

Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy written submission, 27 June 2024

I refer to your correspondence dated 31 May 2024 asking for an update on what specific action the Early Interventions for Children and Young People Working Group is taking to address public health concerns about the use of Image and Performance Enhancing Drugs (IPEDs).

The Working Group has provided an invaluable opportunity to listen to the views of young people about the services available to them. The focus of the work has been on treatment services in general rather than on specific treatment services for individual drug groups.

So, in answer to the Committee's question, this Working Group has not considered IPEDs specifically. The Working Group is developing a Framework which includes treatment standards for children and young people being supported for any drug or alcohol problem. The aim is to have the Framework published in late 2024 in time for the introduction of the Charter of Rights for people affected by substance use in December 2024. The Framework and the Charter will benefit young people impacted by IPEDs.

The Scottish Government's policy on IPEDs remains that we will continue to support Police Scotland in tackling any criminality and we will continue to support local treatment and recovery services to provide help for people who have been impacted by drugs of any kind, including IPEDs.

CHRISTINA MCKELVIE MSP