



# The Association of Directors of Public Health

## Statement on the Government Drugs Strategy 2017

The Association of Directors of Public Health, the representative body for Directors of Public Health across the UK, has responded to the government's new drugs strategy.

Dr Andrew Furber, President of the Association of Directors of Public Health, said:

“Directors of Public Health, and their local authorities, are fully committed to work to reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drug misuse.”

“There is much to welcome in this strategy, especially a shared ambition to reduce the harm caused by drug misuse. However, the scale of the challenge requires it to be adequately resourced.”

“The local response will require Directors of Public Health to continue to play a central role and we can no longer avoid the fact that cuts to the Public Health Grant are damaging to government's ambitions. There is no long-term vision in this strategy to ensure services are adequately funded.”

“The pressure on Directors of Public Health and Local Authorities could have been easily addressed by reversing the cut to the Public Health Grant; the announced cuts total £531M while additional expectations continue to be created.”

**ENDS**

### Further information

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) is the representative body for Directors of Public Health (DPH) in the UK. It seeks to improve and protect the health of the population through collating and presenting the views of DsPH; advising on public health policy and legislation at a local, regional, national and international level; facilitating a support network for DsPH; and providing opportunities for DsPH to develop professional practice.

The Association has a rich heritage, its origins dating back 160 years. It is a collaborative organisation working in partnership with others to maximise the voice for public health.

[www.adph.org.uk](http://www.adph.org.uk)

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