

The English Substance Use Commissioners' Group

Purpose

The English Substance Use Commissioners' Group (ESUCG) is an England-wide strategic and supportive forum to bring together those with commissioning responsibility for substance use services, for improved population and individual level outcomes relating to the use of alcohol and other drugs.

The ESUCG provides an important space for commissioners to meet, network and work together to improve the commissioning and delivery of integrated services and strategies locally. It aims to develop commissioning skills and experience by facilitating mentoring and peer support opportunities.

As a recognised collective voice for commissioners, the group is frequently asked to feed in views to policy and strategy discussions at the national level. As well as this, the ESUCG supports a sector-led improvement (SLI) approach to commissioning by sharing information, challenges, ideas, models of good practice and supporting problem solving to protect and improve health, reduce inequalities and improve the quality and cost effectiveness of commissioned services.

The group is supported by funding from the Local Government Association (LGA) and receives secretarial support from the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH).

Membership and Governance

The Group is governed by an Executive Committee, made up of a maximum of 18 members representing each of the nine regions of England (North East, North West, West Midlands, East Midlands, East of England, South West, South East, London and Yorkshire & the Humber). A Chair and two Vice Chairs are elected from within the Executive Committee.

Membership is open and free to those with responsibility for commissioning substance use services in local government in England. Currently, the group has 178 members from across all of England's regions. Engagement with representatives from other groups – for example, user and recovery groups, service providers, voluntary organisations, pharmaceutical and other organisations – is actively pursued to ensure improved outcomes.

Meetings and Events

Members are invited to quarterly national meetings with commissioners from around the country to discuss the latest opportunities and challenges in the sector. The Executive Committee meets every two months to steer the wider group, organise national meetings, identify priorities and take forward deliverables from the group's work programme.

Feedback from Members

An excellent mechanism to connect with fellow commissioners from across the country – absolutely invaluable.

Very useful forum, sharing of good practice from areas across the country is always good.

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