



Evidence Briefing 2025 - Brief for applications

Objective

The purpose of the evidence briefing is to summarise evidence on topics that are high on the agenda for Scottish drugs research. The evidence briefing is meant to summarise evidence in an accessible way with policy makers and practitioners in mind. This year, we are commissioning this report to be done by one or several researchers. We are particularly supportive of applications from PhD students and early career researchers.

Topic

We are looking for an evidence briefing on the topic of drugs and young people. By definition, young people are aged ≤ 25 years, but applicants may choose to focus on particular groups of young people if they wish (e.g. only teenagers). The briefing should have a relevant focus on Scotland but can also include international evidence and can be an overview of literature or provide insights from data. We are looking for applicants to provide a brief of what they intend to include in the brief and a short overview of methods. We are open to suggestions of areas of interest relating to young people, including but not limited to:

- Trends in drug use
- Perspectives on treatment and support
- Drug-related harm, including drug-deaths
- Effective prevention approaches

The brief

Interested applicants should send us a brief, which will be assessed by members of the DRNS network planning group. We will assess the applications on suggested topic and proposed plan. An overview of the structure of the brief is included on the next page.

Timeline

All briefs need to be submitted by **5pm on 10th of March** to admin@drns.ac.uk. Outcomes of the assessment will be provided by the 21st of March, and the successful applicant can then start on their report, which should be submitted by the 30th of June.

Output and budget

The budget for the briefing is up to £1,000 subject to contractual agreements which will be paid as soon as possible upon delivery of the final report. The briefing should be about 3-5 pages and summarise the evidence of the proposed topic. We are not expecting a systematic review. In addition to the evidence briefing we would like the author to write a blog post and deliver a webinar on the results.

Appendix – Structure of evidence briefing

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Applicant name	<i>This is the person who has the main responsibility for the delivery of the evidence briefing. Teams and individuals may apply however the total funding will be up to £1,000.</i>
Applicant email address	
Collaborators/wider team	
Institution/organisation	
Topic (max 50 words)	<i>Short justification of the topic and why this is timely</i>
Title of proposed evidence briefing	<i>Suggested title for the brief</i>
Evidence briefing outline (max 500 words)	Background <i>Introduction to the topic and state the aims and objectives of the evidence briefing</i> Methods <i>Brief description of how you plan to go about finding evidence for the briefing, e.g. literature searches or analysis of data</i> Timeline/Gantt chart <i>Your plan for delivering the briefing</i>
Intended Audience (max 100 words)	<i>Briefly outline who your intended audience is (e.g. practitioners, policy makers)</i>

Please send your brief to admin@drns.ac.uk