

3.1. Do you support a Safer Drug Consumption Facility (SDCF) in Edinburgh? (tick one)

I strongly support it

I support it

I neither support nor oppose it

I oppose it I strongly oppose it

3.2 Please tell us why

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh has consistently supported the use of Safer Drug Consumption Centres as part of a broad range of initiatives which we consider can play a part in reducing the levels of drugs deaths in Scotland.

Therefore the College welcomes this proposal and would again highlight our 2021 report *Drug Deaths in Scotland: an increasingly medical problem* which emphasised the vital role of clinicians within a whole systems approach and set out a number of clinical approaches, and also recommended the introduction of a drugs consumption room and a heroin assisted treatment programme in all major centres in Scotland.

We consider that the case for SDCFs was well made in relation to the opening of the Thistle facility in Glasgow and initial results from the facility have been encouraging, for example with regard to the prevention of a significant number of fatal overdoses that may have otherwise happened on the street or in isolation.

3.3. Do you support a Safer Drug Consumption Facility (SDCF) being in the Old Town? (tick one)

I strongly support it

I support it

I neither support nor oppose it

I oppose it I strongly oppose it

3.4 Please tell us why (free text)

While the College does not have a definitive stance on the specific location of individual SDFCs, we obviously support inclusive and effective consultation on these issues with local communities, service users and their representatives, health and care experts and professionals and elected representatives.

We understand that some will argue for the centre to be located in areas of greatest potential caseload although there are also strong arguments in favour of a city centre facility which could be accessed by people from all parts of the city.

3.5. What concerns (if any) do you have about the facility being located in the Old Town?

We do not have particular concerns but understand that those behind the proposal will be looking carefully at how to make a city centre facility as accessible as possible to all who may benefit from it and so as to prevent those from the more outlying parts of the city being deterred from making use of it.

3.6. What benefits (if any) do you think the facility could bring to the Old Town?

It would bring in another facility that we would hope could work closely with other agencies which is important for service users who in many cases have multiple needs. We very much hope that other support can be integrated into the SDCF and that other health and social care workers will cooperate closely with staff there.

3.7. What other changes would make the area better and safer for everyone?

Please tick all that apply

More support for people on the streets or in public places

Better access to drugs treatment

Better access to residential drug rehabilitation

Better access to other support and healthcare

Better access to accommodation options

Needle disposal bins

More street cleaning

More law enforcement

Other (free text)

We consider all of these changes are important as part of a broad, co-ordinated, cross-service approach.