

Alcohol services

Dorset



General resources



Advice and information

[Alcohol support – NHS](#)

[Drink less alcohol - Better Health – NHS](#)

[A guide to alcohol units \(and signs of alcohol dependence\) | NHS](#)

[Unit calculator | Alcohol Change UK](#)

Support

[Alcohol Change UK charity: Alcohol harms. Time for change. | Alcohol Change UK](#)

[Home - Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain](#)

[Self-Help Addiction Recovery | UK Smart Recovery](#)

[Home - Soberistas](#)



Dorset resources

Livewell Dorset: Reducing your alcohol intake can do wonders for your health. We'll support you to cut down and take control of your drinking.

Telephone: 0800 840 1628

Email: <https://www.livewelldorset.co.uk/contact/>

Website: [Cutting Down On Alcohol With LiveWell Dorset | Free Help To Stop Drinking · LiveWell Dorset](#)

Reach: Can support you to achieve your goals. Our staff will welcome you at one of the locations in Dorset and work with you to understand your goals and agree how we can support you achieve them.

Address: Weymouth Coffee Tavern, 24 High West Street, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8J

Telephone: 0800 043 4656

Email: SW_InfoReach@waythrough.org.uk

Website: [Reach - Weymouth – Waythrough](#)



Why talk about alcohol?

Many people don't realise they are drinking at harmful or hazardous levels. With the right support, it's possible to improve health and wellbeing by cutting down drinking or stopping altogether.

Using your skills to speak to someone about alcohol can motivate and support them to change their drinking behaviour. **Reducing alcohol consumption** can quickly improve physical and mental wellbeing.

How to structure a conversation

- 1. Ask:** Be aware of opportunities for change and raise the issue.
- 2. Explore:**
 - Use Open Discovery Questions, a non-judgemental attitude; try to avoid 'telling' people what to do.
 - Use **AUDIT C** to support identification of risk, alongside supporting [information](#) to help structure your conversation.
- 3. Act:** on the person's response:
 - 1.Share** resources for helpful tips on cutting down
OR
 - 1.Refer** for further support. Anyone can self-refer for support.

DO ✓

- Gain Permission from the beginning to help people feel at ease
- Ask 'Open Discovery Questions' (What & How) to allow the conversation to be led by the person
- Be curious, express empathy and use active listening
- Look out for **Opportunities for change** as a prompt to start healthy conversations

AVOID ✗

- Being judgemental or critical
- Using Closed questions which lead to a yes or no response
- Making assumptions about the individual – assumption is the death of support
- Raising if the person is intoxicated

Opportunities for Change

Social issues

- Relationship problems and domestic violence.
- Criminal behaviour (e.g. driving offences, breach of the peace, shoplifting).
- Unsafe sex/sexual risk taking.
- Personal risk taking.
- Financial problems.
- Bereavement (which can lead to use of alcohol as a coping strategy).

Effects on mental health

- Anxiety and panic disorders.
- Depressive illness.
- Amnesia, memory disorders and dementia.
- Treatment resistance in other psychiatric illnesses and as a factor in relapse.
- Self-harm.

Effects on physical health

- Accidents/injuries.
- Gastrointestinal system, including dyspepsia (indigestion), gastritis and pancreatitis.
- Various liver abnormalities.
- Cardiovascular system, including cardiac arrhythmias, hypertension and stroke.
- Reproductive system problems and unexplained infertility.
- Cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, oesophagus, breast and colon.
- Other effects, including seizures, gout and eczema.

Occupational effects

- Repeated absenteeism, especially around weekends.
- Impaired work performance and accidents.
- Employment difficulties.

Conversation Starters

Gaining Permission

"Is it okay if we talk about how your drinking might be affecting your health?"

"Would it be okay to discuss...?"

Indirect ways to start a healthy chat:

"You mentioned that... you are drinking more often..."

"It sounds like... you might be interested in cutting down..."

"What makes you want to... cut down?"

"How is your drinking affecting your health?"

More direct approaches:

"What do you drink on a night out / at home?"

"What do you like about <alcoholic drink of choice> / how it makes you feel?"

"How often do you drink?"

Further guidance & training

[Alcohol: applying All Our Health](#) - Provides an overview of harm and key actions to take.

Free Alcohol Identification & Brief advice e-learning provided by [NHSE elfh Hub](#).