

AYPH response to WHO AA-HA guidance

The World Health Organisation (WHO) consulted on the second edition of their *Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!): guidance to support country implementation*. The guidance aims to help countries to respond to the health and wellbeing challenges of adolescents. It is intended as a reference document for national policy makers.

AYPH submitted a response to the following survey questions. Our response provided feedback on the guidance document as a whole, rather than feedback on individual sections of the guidance document.

Overall, do you agree with the content?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Overall, do you agree with the quality of evidence and references (being up to date) used?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Overall, do you agree with the flow of the content?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Somewhat agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

What did you find most useful that you think should be kept in the final document?

This second edition of the Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!) guidance provides a solid overview of the evidence-base on young people's health and why it is essential there is more investment in this area. The report will be a useful resource to reference to and share with policy makers and other likeminded organisations in the United Kingdom. The Association for Young People's Health (AYPH) supports the topics that have been included in the guidance and the suggested policy interventions. The data and statistics are split into useful sections, covering the key areas of young people's health and wellbeing. It is particularly helpful having international data included in the report, which are beneficial for making national-level comparisons. The case studies and examples that are scattered throughout the guidance are also useful for seeing how parts of the guidance have been applied in different settings and scenarios.

Is there anything you feel was overlooked and must be included in the final AA-HA 2.0 document?

Policy makers will not have time to read and interpret the document as a whole. It may be the responsibility of other organisations or stakeholders (such as AYPH) to digest the information in the guidance and translate it into something that is usable for policy makers in their local context. Therefore, we recommend producing a short one-page guidance document that supports organisations and individuals to interpret the report for use at a national or local level, which supplements the guidance document itself. The checklists contained within the guidance are particularly helpful for translating the content into national and local level settings.

Are there any parts of the section you feel should be excluded in the final AA-HA 2.0 document?

- Yes
- No

Is there any other feedback you would like to provide?

The guidance document is very thorough and long. We do not recommend losing any of the content, as it is all helpful but the reader does require help in navigating the document to make it as useful as possible to find the sections that are most relevant to them. The section on implementation strategies is particularly dense.

We recommend making changes to improve the navigation through this document. This could include inserting live links within the final PDF document, both in the contents page and by making connections between pages and sections that are related to each other (e.g. data on smoking with links to the policy recommendations on smoking). We also recommend adding an executive summary at the start of the document and a conclusion at the end of the document, for those who are short on time to gain a quick overview of the content. The key summaries at the start of each section are helpful, but could be better emphasised for those who are scanning through the document. There could be less emphasis on what has changed since the 2017 edition, since many will be coming to this document afresh with no prior knowledge of the earlier document. We also recommend where possible including more visual elements throughout the guidance, such as data charts and infographics, to help break up the text.

We also recommend strengthening the section on young people's involvement and participation with additional references. The following references may be of particular use:

- [Getting health services right for 16-25 year olds](#) - BMJ article
- [Engaging young people in health services research and service design](#) - AYPH
- [An inquiry into involving young people in health research: Executive Summary](#) – Wellcome Trust
- [An inquiry into involving young people in health research: Evidence Review](#) – Wellcome Trust
- [Youth engagement in mental health research: A systematic review](#) – Health Expect article
- [Embedding young people's participation in health services](#) – Book edited by Louca-Mai Brady
- [Urgency for transformation: Youth engagement in global health](#) – The Lancet article