

Optional Action Point 7:

Develop a visible and accessible referral pathway to a range of internal and external alcohol support services for students.

1. Purpose

The objective of this toolkit is to;

- Outline how a college would create an accessible referral pathway to both internal and external alcohol support services.

2. Scope

A referral pathway is a designated route that any staff member can guide a student on if they feel they are at risk. For example, if a number of complaints come into the Accommodation Office relating to a student's drinking, the referral pathway will be used to appropriately refer the student to the correct service, internally or externally.

3. Procedure

1. The referral pathway must be visible and accessible.
2. It must include and promote a self-referral route for students.
3. Training and information relating to the referral pathway must be offered to front line staff of the college every two years.
4. It is important to discuss treatment and intervention options with the student prior to any referral:
 - *Evidence of dependence* – refer to specialist addiction service for comprehensive assessment and intervention.
 - *Lower risk and hazardous use* – deliver brief intervention and advice or refer to substance misuse liaison service.
 - *Evidence of self-harm or mental health problems* – refer to mental health services and ensure safe environment.
5. You should provide the student with a list of local services including contact names, telephone numbers, e-mail and web site where available.
6. A direct referral should be made to the appropriate service to ensure continuity of care.