

DRUGS NEWSLETTER

January 2010 – N°9 Issue

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News and updates

*Mentor UK seeks partners for exciting youth project

National drug misuse prevention charity Mentor UK is seeking London-based partners to get involved in their exciting new project with young people. The London Youth Involvement Project (LYIP), funded by the City Bridge Trust, aims to establish a network of young people aged 12-15 who will be trained as volunteer Youth Advisors to professionals within the capital's drug prevention sector. Mentor UK will manage a network of policy makers and commissioners who will hear the young people's views on drugs, drug prevention work in London, and health and social issues relevant to young people, to inform drug prevention work with the views and perspectives of young people themselves.

Mentor UK is looking for partners in two areas:

1. Professionals Network: drug sector professionals and services to provide opportunities for the views and findings of the Youth Advisors to be heard, in particular DAT teams, Local Authority commissioners and government departments.
2. Recruitment of young people: youth organizations, groups and services that are keen to refer young people they work with to be involved in the project as part of the initial core group of 20 Youth Advisors.



Our aim is to enrich the development of professional drug services and drug prevention policy with the viewpoints of young Londoners, and to provide young people with opportunities in work experience, volunteering, skills development, accreditation and general CV building.

There are still places on the team of 20 young people until the end of February, and the Professionals Network is being developed. If you would like to get involved or find out more, please email [Roxy Holman](mailto:Roxy.Holman@mentoruk.org) or call her on 020 7739 8494.

'Legal highs' no more!

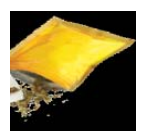
On 23 December 2009 three substances that have to date been termed 'legal highs', together with a further group of anabolic steroids and two growth promoters became controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

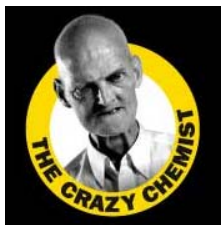
GBL (Gamma-butyrolactone) is an oily and colourless liquid closely related to GHB. It is a legitimate industrial product found in products like paint stripper and rust remover, however it has been used on the clubbing scene in particular as 'Liquid E'. GBL is now controlled as a Class C drug when supplied or in possession for human ingestion.



BZP (Benzylpiperazine) and other related piperazines have been commonly marketed as 'legal E' or 'party pills' and sold both on the internet and in head shops. These compounds are now controlled as a Class C drug, together with like piperazine compounds.

Synthetic cannabinoids often found in 'Spice' like products are man made chemicals designed to mimic THC in cannabis. These 'herbal' products are sprayed with the chemical and often sold as 'incense' at music festivals, head shops and on the internet. Synthetic cannabinoids are now controlled as Class B drugs.





The FRANK website has been updated to include these substances and their new legal status, and the leaflets are currently being revised. There is also a new FRANK branded poster that is available to order by calling 0870 241 4680 or online at www.drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/communications-and-campaigns/materials-library/frank/leafletsandposters/crazy-chemist-poster.html.

Please direct any queries or questions to FRANK@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

***Publication of national and regional profiles for young people's substance misuse report**

More young people in England who need it are receiving help for problems involving drug and alcohol use, but fewer have problems severe enough to require treatment for addiction. The increasing availability of specialist substance misuse services ensures that more of the minority who do need help are getting it.

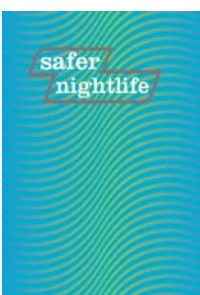


The report published by the NTA shows that the number of teenagers entering treatment for heroin and crack has fallen by a third in four years, echoing the trend already seen in young adults (aged 18-24) coming into drug treatment which shows that the number of younger people needing help for heroin and crack are falling. The vast majority of young people receiving treatment are doing so for problems involving alcohol and cannabis. To read the report and further publications on young people and substance misuse please visit <http://www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/publications.aspx?CategoryID=22>.

Guidance and practice

Updated best practice on drug use and the nightlife economy published: 'Safer Nightlife'

Partnerships and practitioners involved in the night time economy and drug issues can now access a very useful 'Safer Nightlife' best practice document published by the London Drug Policy Forum and funded by the Home Office, which has been updated by the City of London DAT.



Its purpose is to help ensure the health and safety of everyone involved in, and going out to, events in pubs and clubs with particular emphasis on those who also take drugs. The document provides dedicated advice on a range of key issues including: creating a safe physical environment, tackling drug dealing, reducing harm from drug use, promoting sexual health and developing a drug policy.

The updated document can be downloaded from the City of London website at http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E4E0FE3A-9F8E-4182-AFBF-31C83E74C03A/0/SS_LDPF_safer_nightlife.pdf.

Hard copies can be requested by phone on 0870 241 4680, by email to dpas@prolog.uk.com.

Funding/Resources

New NTA / Society Guardian website

The NTA and the Society Guardian have launched a new microsite promoting the benefits of recovery and reintegration from drug addiction: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/drug-treatment>.

Featuring positive accounts of treatment including healthcare, criminal justice and wider social support, the purpose of the site is to:



- Highlight the value of recovery and reintegration to individuals, families, communities and societies
- Engage a wider reintegration audience, including housing, welfare and training agencies, to promote and support the reintegration of drug users in to society.

Please contact the NTA for comments and feedback on this website.

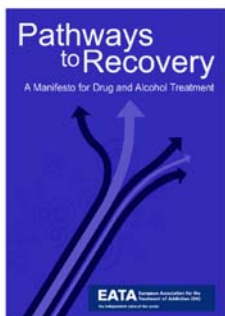
***Up to £2.5 billion in savings to the taxpayer – EATA lays out the case for the next stage in drug and alcohol treatment**

EATA, the UK based association representing drug and alcohol treatment agencies, today launches its manifesto 'Pathways to Recovery' – as the important next step for the progress of successful drug and alcohol treatment.

The manifesto argues for the retention of investment in drug and alcohol treatment, a greater focus on recovery for people with drug and alcohol problems and shows how up to £2.5 billion could be saved by changing the way drug and alcohol treatment is commissioned, planned and delivered, leading to many more people leading completely drug free lives and thereby becoming more economically active.

'Pathways to Recovery' explains how rehabilitation and reintegration of the service user can have long-term cost benefits bringing about a reduction in the burden on the benefits system and the National Health Service. The manifesto is supported by a robust economic report commissioned from Landman Economics.

EATA European Association for the Treatment of Addiction (UK)
the independent voice of the sector



Key to EATA's argument is the cost-effectiveness of a recovery-oriented treatment approach. Whilst there is a role for methadone and other prescribed substitutes this should form the beginning of the treatment journey not the end game. Recovery should always remain the primary aim for the client. Currently, treatment can concentrate too much on leaving people on substitute maintenance regimes and fails to harness well the strength of mentoring potential from those who have conquered their drug and alcohol dependencies or the wide variety of 'free' community based recovery oriented self-help groups.

The manifesto accepts absolutely that substitute medication is a useful tool to stabilise people with drug problems but is not an end in itself. The NHS acute services currently costs upwards of 58% of the drugs treatment budget. The Third Sector can and will give value for money in the drug and alcohol treatment sector.

Highlights from: 'The Economic and Social benefits of implementing the 'Pathways to Recovery' manifesto include:

- Public finance savings of **£1.1bn** if applied to the current population of drug and alcohol users in treatment and up to **£2.5bn** if applied to those drug and alcohol users who are not yet in treatment.
- Additional social benefits of **£1.2bn** based on existing treatment cases and **£3.7bn** based on those not currently in treatment.
- For drug users figures assume a **25% reduction** in the methadone (or substitute) caseload.
- Funding allocated for alcohol treatment could lead to savings to the NHS alone of up to **£212m**

For further information please contact Katie Hill, Communications and Development Manager, EATA, on 07929661180 or to Katie.hill@eata.org.uk. The manifesto is also available from the EATA's website at <http://www.eata.org.uk/uploads/File/EATA%20Manifesto%20Pathways%20to%20Recovery.pdf>.

NTA launches essential guide for commissioning recovery-orientated drug treatment

A new guide to enable local drug action teams help drug users achieve and sustain recovery from their addiction is launched today (Tuesday 19 January) by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA).



**National Treatment Agency
for Substance Misuse**

'Commissioning for Recovery' summarises the best of current practice in the drug treatment field, , distils what most partnerships should already know in order to deliver effective treatment, and makes clear what others could be doing to be up there with the best.

It combines an increased focus on improving outcomes for individuals in treatment, with clear advice to ensure that local treatment needs are met, so service users recover as soon as practicable and re-integrate back into society.

The guide places emphasis on the wider support individuals may need to recover from drug addiction, including housing, employment and mutual aid groups, and promotes the role of 'recovery champions' to both inspire and drive the recovery focus.

Alongside this publication the NTA is starting work to refresh the national framework for drug treatment services, first set out in *Models of Care* in 2002. A draft Recovery Framework will be sent out for consultation in the summer, but in the meantime the NTA is holding a series of seminars and workshops to involve stakeholders in early discussions. The NTA has already held a workshop on residential rehabilitation with representatives of providers and commissioners, and a seminar on the role of self-help and mutual aid took place yesterday.

Supporting information is available on the NTA website at www.nta.nhs.uk

Events and campaigns

Positive Futures regional events

The Positive Futures national social inclusion programme for young people aged 10-19 is running a series of regional events in February. The events are showcasing the work of the programme in supporting young people to steer clear of anti-social behaviour, crime and substance misuse and are targeted at key partners and stakeholders. Event locations and dates are:

Dates and location:

- 15 February East Midlands
- 16 February North West
- 17 February South East
- 18 February Yorkshire and Humberside
- 19 February North East



To express your interest in attending any of these events then please contact the Positive Futures national team on 020 7336 4844 or email positive.futures@catch-22.org.uk.

FRANK Bus Tour

The FRANK drugs bus will embark on the next tour of schools in February, covering schools in the Yorkshire and Humber region. The Home Office works with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to select schools where the bus spends up to two days providing advice and information about drugs in an interactive and educational way. Schools are encouraged to integrate the bus visit into their drug education sessions so pupils get the opportunity to consolidate their experience in a more formal educational setting. For further information and to find out if the bus is coming to a town near you, please email FRANK@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.



Tackling Drugs Changing Lives Award for Teesside

Specialist young people's drug and alcohol workers from Redcar and Cleveland and their colleagues across Teesside win a national Tackling Drugs Changing Lives award for their work.



The Tees Valley Young People's Team, which includes the Redcar and Cleveland Team called CREST, provide one-stop-shop advice, education, support and treatment to young people under 19 with problematic drug and alcohol use, and their families.

Staff were praised for working in partnership with Youth Offending Teams and other youth justice, education, housing and children's agencies, involving the community, increasing the number of young people engaging with the service, and having a positive effect on drug-related crime.

The Tackling Drugs Changing Lives Awards, now in their fourth year,

recognise and celebrate the unsung heroes who go over and above the call of duty in tackling drug use and changing lives in communities across the country.

*In the picture: Far left, Phil Dolphin, manager of CREST, the drug and alcohol service for young people in Redcar and Cleveland, Debbie Simmons, manager of the Tees Valley Young People's Team, on the far right, and their colleagues Phil Edwards, Neville Flanagan and Andrea Soumare, who manage young people's drug and alcohol services in Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Stockton, join Mandie Campbell, Director of the Home Office Drugs Alcohol and Partnerships Directorate who presented them with the Community Engagement certificate.

Debbie Simmons, DISC Tees Valley Team manager, said: "It's really rewarding for the team's skill and dedication to be recognised. Staff are highly motivated and innovative in the way they engage young people with problematic drug and alcohol use. They involve them in developing their own individual care and recovery plans and transforming their lives. All of the team members are committed to helping young

people, their families and the communities in which they live feel safe and supported, and to contributing to reducing drug-related crime.”

CREST and its sister projects are part of the Tees Valley Young People’s Team which is run by northern regional social inclusion charity Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities (DISC). CREST can be called on 01642 495737 or by post at Redcar Station Business Centre, Station Road, Redcar TS10 1RD.

Other TDCL Awards 2009 were:

George Williams and Ed Mitchell - The two overall winners in last year's Awards were announced by Home Office Minister Alan Campbell at the awards ceremony in Westminster. They will both receive £10,000 for their organisation to spend on tackling drug misuse.



Drug worker of the year

Stephen Holme, from Derbyshire, was named 'Drug Worker of the Year' for dedicating more than 30 years of his career in the police force to tackling drugs. He currently manages the Derbyshire Drug Market Project, which he set up in 2001 to investigate and tackle the different drug markets in the county. He was also instrumental in the set up of Lauren's Link, a charity which supports families affected by substance misuse.

Drug team of the year

The New Horizon Youth Centre Women's Open Space Programme were named 'Drug Team of the Year' for their work helping vulnerable women. Their outreach programme helps young people sleeping rough, female sex workers and other vulnerable women of all ages affected by substance misuse around the Kings Cross area. The programme works to reduce risk taking behaviour, increase awareness of personal safety and empower female sex workers to break the cycle of sex drugs and violence.

Home Office Minister Alan Campbell said: “I want to congratulate both the winners for their hard work and dedication. These awards show just how many hard working volunteers and professional work tirelessly within our communities to help individuals overcome drug addiction, support those affected by it and reduce the harm it can cause to our society.

Latest statistics show that overall drug remains historically low demonstrating that our efforts to tackle drugs and get them off our streets are delivering results. However, we are not complacent and continue to focus our efforts on reducing the harm caused by illegal drugs through enforcement, education and treatment.”

There were 231 nominations across 28 categories for last year’s awards. For further information please look up drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk.

IOM conference

The Home Office and Ministry of Justice jointly hosted the first national Integrated Offender Management conference - “Better Together” - with the Association of Chief Police Officers, on 20 and 21 January.

IOM provides the framework for bringing together local partners to provide a coherent approach to reducing crime and re-offending. The approach builds on, and incorporates, both the Drug Interventions Programme and the Prolific and other Priority Offender programme, which continue to show that targeting problematic offenders has a significant positive impact.

The conference began with video messages of support from both the Home Secretary and Justice Secretary. There were other high profile speakers during the course of the conference, who talked about IOM from different agency perspectives. The conference provided delegates with an opportunity to take stock of the experience of local areas, including the six IOM Pioneer Areas, in implementing IOM; to hear about latest developments, including on the evaluations of the Pioneer Areas; and to share good practice.

Products from the IOM conference will shortly become available on the PPO website:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.u=/ppo/ppominisite01.htm

Feedback

We value your feedback and contributions. **Thank you** for all that we receive, which have influenced the decision to make a DIP section in the next issue of Drugs Newsletter and merge our contact list with DIP e-bulletin. Please continue to provide feedback and contributions, contact us to amend your details or refer colleagues and contacts to register by email to DrugsEvents@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.