

# THE EXPERIENCE

Newsletter of The UK Drug Workers Forum

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## From the UKDWF Board .....



Hi All,

The UKDWF Board has been busy working with the Lancs Drug and Alcohol Action Team in preparation for their Lancashire Substance Misuse Conference 'Delivering Recovery' on Monday, 17 May.

The focus for the day is on the role of the drug worker in effectively delivering recovery through Lancashire's new services following their process of service modernisation. With speakers including Paul Hayes and Mark Gilman from the NTA, Tom Woodcock from LDAAT, Joss Smith from Adfam as well as workshops being run by service users and local agencies, the day promises to be inspiring and motivating in bringing together all stakeholder groups from this region to enable them to deliver recovery locally with one united vision.

The Board has also been busy securing a venue and putting together an exciting programme for this year's UKDWF Annual National Conference. The event has now been confirmed as **5-6 October** at the Best Western **Moorside Grange Hotel, Stockport**, which has easy access from all parts of the UK, breathtaking views and excellent cuisine.

A full conference programme will be issued shortly.

Best regards,

The UKDWF Board & Management Team

### UKDWF SEEKING ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Anyone interested in finding out more about the work of the Forum and how you can get involved as a Board Member should come along to the AGM or download a nomination pack from the website – [www.ukdrugworkersforum.org](http://www.ukdrugworkersforum.org)

Advertise events, jobs, conferences, training events, etc. in this newsletter and on our website. Contact: [info@ukdrugworkersforum.org](mailto:info@ukdrugworkersforum.org)  
[www.ukdrugworkersforum.org](http://www.ukdrugworkersforum.org)

Date for your diary:

**UKDWF 2010  
5-6 October**

**(Moorside Grange Hotel, Stockport)**

### The UKDWF Board of Trustees (2009-10):

Mick Fowler (Chair), Loretta Johnson (Vice-Chair), Nigel Atkin (Treasurer), Nadeem Mirza (Board Member), Stephen Ryan (Board Member)

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# Drugs and Alcohol Today 2010

Last month, the annual Drugs and Alcohol Today exhibition was held in London. Illy Computer Systems have kindly provided the following update on some of the seminars held for those who were unable to attend in person.

## **Meph, Spice and all things nice? Young people and new drugs: a service-level response and a Europe-wide research database.**

Speakers: Diederik Martens – Young Persons Drugs and Alcohol Worker, KCA  
Dr. Ornella Corazza – The Psychonaut Project, University of Hertfordshire

This seminar focused on the sector's struggle to deal with issues from the steep rise in popularity of legal highs such as 4-MMC (commonly referred to as methadone or meow). There have been difficulties due to:

- Lack of knowledge about the drug and its effects
- Confusion in the media
- Legality issues

KCA believes that myth-busting can deal with the situation through:

- Assessment of 'legal highs' use in the community
- Communication to Young People, Professionals, Decision Makers and Communities

Young people must be made to be aware via advertising, education and P2P, there is no reason to assume legal highs are safe; possession may be legal but schools and institutions may act upon it and there is support available for young legal drug users. This model is based on the FRANK Action Update's approach during 2003's crack cocaine surge.

The seminar also looked at the targeting of Young People by websites responsible for the dissemination of new drugs. These sites lack scientific knowledge, can remain unregulated for a long period of time and drugs are often sold as something else. Recreational Drugs European Network (ReDNet), due to be piloted this year, is an ICT intervention service addressing the use of novel compounds in vulnerable individuals.

Expected outcomes include:

- Raise awareness of novel compounds targeting young people, making them more aware of the health risks associated with the use of 'legal highs' which are perceived as 'safe' by a number of users.
- To have piloted and assessed the risks associated with the dissemination of information on novel compounds to young people.

## **New decade, new challenges, responding to changing patterns of substance misuse.**

**Chair:** David Brindle – Public Services Editor, The Guardian.

**Speakers:** Martin Barnes – Chief Executive, DrugScope  
Don Shenker – Chief Executive, Alcohol Concern  
Karen Biggs – Chief Executive, Phoenix Futures

This seminar looked at the challenges that are affecting the sector as we move into the new decade. These included:

- The gaps in the transition between services, particularly between prison and community
- The media's negative portrayal of substance misusers
- The extent at which the government is prepared to take action on reducing alcohol harm and tackling the industry

There is still less attention paid to alcohol misuse than to substance misuse. 98 PCTs have alcohol targets to try and reduce alcohol problems however these may not be accounted for in their main budgets. There is continued industry pressure, so despite the fact that alcohol-related issues cost the government more than the tax revenues gained from alcohol, they are under pressure to remain lenient on the industry.

With the upcoming General Election, it was suggested that the sector may not be prepared enough for the post-election budget cuts, despite whichever party wins. The sector needs to stay united as opposed to individual providers antagonistically competing for money, contracts and commissions in the heat of government budget cuts. It was proposed that they should focus on what is important instead of concentrating on the dispute of recovery definition; the sector needs to convince communities that the services provided are useful and that the users are important. Services need to prove that the 'recovery' they provide works - evidence-based performance is becoming increasingly more important to the industry.

## TOPS data proves drug services work

**Speakers:** John Jolly – Chief Executive Blenheim CDP  
Colin Bradbury – Head of Delivery, NTA  
Gary Stillwell - Research Worker, Institute of Psychiatry  
Brian Dalton – Director of Client Services, Blenheim CDP

This seminar focused on how, in its 3 year, TOP supports recovery focussed treatment systems and the results that the TOP have shown. One of the key challenges for TOP implementation has been to get high compliance. There are currently 46 Partnerships who have met the eligibility criteria of compliance and can access the Level 3 Outcomes Report (all providers in the partnership area also have access). TOP is being used by a variety of services around the world and has been translated into six different languages.

The report of Outcomes Monitoring at Blenheim CDP found that substance use change across time was positive and statistically significant. For further details, see "Effective Community Treatment for Drug Misusers: Outcome Monitoring at Blenheim CDP. An Independent Review – Dr John Marsden and Gary Stillwell.

There was recognition that the TOP form is increasingly embedded into routine practice as a clinical tool which can motivate and monitor change. The seminar also looked at the next steps for TOPs:

- Consult with consumers about how to make TOP reports more interactive and user friendly
- Roll out of software to generate bespoke individual client reports
- Case mix
- Outcome based commissioning

## UKDWF ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2010

The 2010 Annual National Conference of the UK Drug Workers Forum will be held as follows:

**5-6 October 2010**  
**Best Western Moorside Grange Hotel, Stockport**



Within easy reach of motorway, rail and air networks, this hotel is situated on the edge of the Peak District National Park with outstanding views over the Cheshire countryside, yet just a two-minute drive from the nearby village of Disley with rail links into Manchester city centre and 30 minutes drive from Manchester airport. The hotel has the benefit of free car parking and has also offered the UKDWF a very competitive rate allowing the UKDWF to **reduce delegate fees** for this year's event.

Briefly, it is intended that the programme will cover the following topics:

- Young People
- Families
- Abstinence
- Alcohol
- European updates
- Cultural Issues
- Party Drugs and Legal Highs
- Safeguarding and Family Intervention
- Community Policing
- New Therapies

We hope to see you there.

# The Daily Dose – Loss of an Invaluable Resource

After nine years of continuous daily updates and information on what's happening in the drugs field around the world, the Daily Dose ceased operating on 26th March 2010. Unable to secure sufficient sponsorship to continue to provide this invaluable resource, the site will now remain open offering only archive material dating back to 2002.

On behalf of the UKDWF Board and membership, we would like to thank David Clark and his team at Wired In for their continuous hard work in researching and circulating news updates and information on drug service provision, policy and resources to enable us to better understand this complex field. The daily feed of news will be very much missed.

UKDWF Board

## Appointment of new Home Secretary

Theresa May has been appointed as the new Home Secretary after the Queen approved her appointment. She will also take on the role of Minister for Women and Equality. Ms May has been a member of Parliament for Maidenhead since May 1997. She lives in her constituency and is an active local campaigner.

On her arrival at the Home Office, she said, 'I am glad to accept the role of Home Secretary. This is an important day in politics, and I'm happy to represent the new coalition government.' She added, 'I'm looking forward to getting inside, meeting the staff and getting on with the job.'

A member of the shadow cabinet since 1999, she has held a number of positions including Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment (1999-2001), Shadow Secretary of State for the Family (2004-05) and Shadow Leader of the House of Commons (2005-09).

The newly appointed Home Secretary most recently held the position of Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Shadow Minister for Women.

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Used where multiple agencies need to access information about clients and their case workers.

# New Government Alliance: Drugs Policy Recommendations from the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Parties

In the process of revising their drugs policy, the Conservatives have established a Social Justice Policy Group which includes an Addictions Working Group covering drugs. In 2007 the Social Justice Policy Group published a report entitled *Breakthrough Britain* which looks at 'ending the costs of social breakdown' and is intended to provide the Conservative party with policy recommendations.

A summary of Conservative policy recommendations are outlined as follows:

- 1. An integrated addiction policy to replace the separate drugs and alcohol strategies.**  
Addiction policy should include both alcohol and drugs, as alcohol remains the largest addiction in the country.
- 2. Residential Rehabilitation Expansion**  
This provides detoxification in a safe environment which leads straight into a supportive rehabilitation programme.
- 3. The reclassification of Cannabis from Class C to B**  
Cannabis is the most widely used illegal drug and should not be in the category which gives the impression that we can be less concerned with it than other drugs.
- 4. A dedicated abstinence based treatment wing in every prison**  
An expansion of abstinence programmes in prison, which are highly cost effective and much cheaper than residential programmes in the community.
- 5. Controlling the supply and availability of drugs**  
Availability and affordability have driven alcohol supply and consumption in recent years, government must consider this in their drugs strategy
- 6. Expansion of third (voluntary) sector provision of abstinence-based treatment.**  
The voluntary sector provides an approach which 'cares about the whole person', unlike typical delivery in the public sector which often end up as dispensaries.
- 7. Abstinence based treatment vouchers**  
These will give addicts responsibility in their recovery. It will also ensure funding follows the addict, thereby increasing the likelihood of recovery.
- 8. A radical reassessment of adolescent substance misuse services.**  
For substance abuse problems and for associated mental health, family and social issues there needs to be a review of how to meet the currently unmet needs of young people.
- 9. The further development of dedicated drugs courts.**  
The existing pilot specialist drug courts, which have been shown to be effective, would be expanded.
- 10. Reducing alcohol-related harm.**  
Ensuring that a portion of the profit from alcohol sales is invested in the treatment of addicts.

The Liberals believe that the increase in drug related crime has at least in part been caused by the prohibitive attitude resulting from the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act.

Accordingly, the Liberal Party proposes:

1. the global repeal of legislation regarding the prohibition of drugs and its replacement with an effective strategy of legalisation, regulation and control,
2. the establishment of an independent multi-agency co-ordinating body to oversee policy development and implementation in relation to the supply and control of drugs;
3. taxation of drugs and redirection of criminal justice expenditure to education and treatment services;
4. the dissemination of accurate and truthful information to minimise substance-related harm to individuals and communities.

They believe that these measures will eliminate the criminal market place and cause a reduction in related crime and violence.

# Project Prevention

'Project Prevention' is a controversial US charity which pays addicts to get sterilised and is now setting up in the UK.

They claim to have stopped more than 3,000 alcohol and drug addicts from having children.

## **Project Prevention claims:**

Project Prevention offers cash incentives to women that are addicted to drugs and/or alcohol to use long-term or permanent birth control. Project Prevention is a national, 501 (C) 3 organization that has paid clients in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Our mission is to reduce the number of substance exposed births to zero. Because every baby deserves a sober start!

### The Sad Reality



It is estimated that 11-15% of babies born in the United States are exposed to alcohol or drugs in utero (Poulsen, 1991.)

In 1992-93 221,000 women used illegal drugs during their pregnancy. (NIDA, 1996). Nearly 3% of pregnant women use illicit drugs (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2003). Project Prevention supports drug treatment and believes all addicts should have the opportunity to seek and find it. Since we all know there is a lack of drug treatment available to addicts at times I think we can all agree that being on birth control unless/until they have the opportunity to get clean is a positive step for all addicts/alcoholics.

## **Addaction responds:**

There have been various news reports over the past few weeks about the American organisation *Project Prevention*, which aims to prevent children being born to drug using parents by sterilising drug users. Project Prevention offers those drug users an incentive payment. Addaction firmly believes that there is no place for Project Prevention in the UK because their practices are morally reprehensible and irrelevant. Sex education and contraceptive advice is part of drug treatment work in this country. Women who use drugs can access all types of contraception free on the NHS including a number of long term options. Addaction is one of the UK's largest providers of drug treatment. Our first-hand experience shows that people can make positive changes with the right support – both for themselves and for their children. In fact, many of our clients stopped using drugs because they became a parent. It's certainly true that too many children are growing up with drug-using parents, but working with the whole family – as Addaction does – helps stop drug use and improves a child's prospects dramatically.



Modern Health Systems (MHS) is a national company providing consultancy, training, medical screening and drug and alcohol testing services including



Drug Testing using oral fluid. The Drugalyser® is a non-intrusive point-of-care drug testing detection system that provides results within 10 minutes.

Using accredited technology, used by Police Forces in the UK and Europe it detects illegal drugs in the body using oral fluid (saliva), avoiding the embarrassment of taking urine samples.

It does not require costly and lengthy laboratory analysis or expensive equipment, only to confirm legally defensible positive tests.

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It is a cost effective method used by a large number of companies for pre-employment, random and regular screening within the workplace. (References available on request)

Visit [www.modernhealthsystems.com](http://www.modernhealthsystems.com)

or Ring on 0845 873 9602

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# EVENTS

- **Health Minds: The Key to Realising Potential  
20 May 2010, London.**

A large percentage of clients who access homelessness services have poor mental health. Without the right support and access to the right services, their mental health is likely to worsen. Very few staff however feel sufficiently prepared and trained to support these clients, which can leave them feeling uncertain about how to interact safely and effectively with such clients. This conference aims to demystify the mental health care system and inform workers based in the homelessness sector, how they can more easily support clients with poor mental health. It will focus on the clients who have lower level mental health issues, as provision for these individuals is less readily available, despite a recognised significant demand for this type of support.

**Contact:** Homeless Link [www.homeless.org.uk](http://www.homeless.org.uk) or Kate Alaway, Conferences & Events Manager on 020 7840 4461, by fax 020 7840 4431.

- **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Psychotherapy of Addiction Conference  
14-16 June 2010, London**

Highlighting presentations and practice demonstrations from a range of highly regarded experts, including Professor Edward Khantzian and Dr Philip Flores, two theoreticians and practitioners who have influenced major advances in the addiction field from a psychodynamic and attachment perspective.

**Contact:** [martin.weegmann@swlstg-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:martin.weegmann@swlstg-tr.nhs.uk)

- **Recovery Scotland 2010  
23 June 2010, Edinburgh**

Alcohol and drug use and misuse is an immense and highly complex challenge for Scotland's health, social work, housing, criminal justice and education professionals. Recovery Scotland is a unique event taking a person-centred and community-led approach to alcohol and drug misuse.

**Contact:** [www.recovery-scotland.com](http://www.recovery-scotland.com). Email: [info@pavpub.com](mailto:info@pavpub.com)

- **Drugs, Alcohol and Criminal Justice – Ethics, Effectiveness and Economics of Interventions  
23-25 June 2010, London**

The conference will look at a range of interventions and treatments, from harm reduction to drug-free recovery. The aim is to discuss and debate how the different components can be combined effectively while demonstrating value for money.

**Contact:** [www.connectionsproject.eu](http://www.connectionsproject.eu)

- **Sharps – Best Practice in Needle Exchange and Harm Reduction  
30 June 2010, London**

Needle exchanges started in the 1980s as a controversial health improvement initiative, but thirty years on, they are widely acknowledged as being very successful in reducing harm and ill health amongst drug injectors. A 2004 report from the World Health Organisation found that needle exchanges had significantly reduced HIV infection and there was no evidence that they encouraged drug usage. Needle exchange services are provided by a range of different organisations in a number of different ways, so best practice and new initiatives need to be widely shared. Working partnerships should be established and maintained between organisations to allow this communication to happen. Some fantastic work is being done up and down the country and this conference will allow this best practice to be publicised, with the practitioners responsible available for questions and comments.

The conference will also look to the future. New challenges for needle exchange programmes will always appear, whether they are caused by new drugs, changes in injecting habits, or different clients. All these possibilities need to be considered and assessed and the conference will discuss solutions and future initiatives, such as the advantages and disadvantages of assisted injecting rooms.

**Contact:** Jennifer Tatman for more information on [jtatman@rsph.org.uk](mailto:jtatman@rsph.org.uk) or call 020 3177 1614 or visit <https://www.rsph.org.uk/en/courses-conferences-and-events/>

- **UKDWF 2010  
5-6 October 2010, Stockport**  
See Page 3 for further information

# JOBS

- **ATR DRUGS WORKER, £19,621 - £26,276, Full-Time (35 hours per week)**

**North Kirklees**

You will work within Lifeline Kirklees Adult Services, carrying a mixed caseload of individuals with substance misuse problems including opiates, alcohol and stimulants. You will use a number of different evidence-based psychosocial and other therapeutic interventions with clients in order to engage, retain and successfully complete treatment. Main tasks will involve carrying out assessments, care planning, undertaking psychosocial interventions and acting as a key worker for individuals. You must be a highly motivated, organised person with the ability to establish a good rapport with services users and other professionals and to adapt within a constantly changing environment. You must have considerable experience of working supporting adults in a social care and/or criminal justice setting along with an awareness of current models of intervention with drug and alcohol users.

For informal discussions about the posts contact: Rob Buchanan T: (01924) 438383

**Closing date:** 28 May 2010. Interviews on 11 June 2010. For application pack, contact: Adele Shaw - tel: 01484 353333, **Email:** [vacancies@lifelinekirklees.org.uk](mailto:vacancies@lifelinekirklees.org.uk)

- **SERVICE MANAGER, £33,661 - 39,855, Full-Time**

**Young Peoples Service, Salford & Tameside**

Established in 1971, Lifeline Project has a long history of providing high quality services to children and young people who have complex substance misuse issues. We have an excellent reputation for the delivery of good practice in all our children and young people's. In partnership with Salford and Tameside Drug and Alcohol Action Teams, Lifeline Project has developed an innovative and comprehensive approach to engaging and working with children and young people, families and communities, delivering targeted and specialist substance misuse provision. We are seeking an individual with proven project management skills and a background in working with children/young people's services or drug and alcohol specific services. You will have an excellent knowledge of the children's agenda, excellent people management skills, a strong commitment to partnership working and a track record of delivering results. Lifeline will be able to offer you a competitive package, professional development, support from the Head of Directorate for Young People and the chance to shape and develop two exciting services.

**Closing date:** 1 June 2010. Interviews: 3 June 2010.

To download a job specification and Application pack please visit our website: [www.lifeline.org.uk](http://www.lifeline.org.uk) Completed forms should be returned by post or email to: Laura Shields, Lifeline Project, 101-103 Oldham Street, Manchester, M4 1LW or [laura.shields@lifeline.org.uk](mailto:laura.shields@lifeline.org.uk) To discuss any aspects of this post please contact Martin Moran, Head of Directorate for Young People's services on Tel: 07590 849284.

- **DEPUTY REGIONAL MANAGER, NTA. Salary: £38,851 to £46,621. Contract: Permanent**

**Yorkshire & the Humber - Based: Yorkshire & the Humber Regional Office, Leeds**

**East Midlands - Based: East Midlands Regional Office, Nottingham**

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) is a special health authority created in 2001 with a remit to increase the availability, capacity and effectiveness of drug treatment in England. Working closely with local partnerships, you'll ensure the right treatment services are in place in communities and prisons, and will performance manage adult and young people's treatment plans and make sure budgets and investments are used to best advantage. It's an extremely high profile challenge, in which you'll champion best practice, drive delivery and constructively address underperformance. You will develop far-reaching strategic relationships to enable this to happen. You may have a background in commissioning, drug treatment, criminal justice, performance management or have transferable skills. Your experience will span resources, people and change management and you will be an impressive facilitator and negotiator. As politically astute as you are visionary, you'll bring real insight into purchasing and commissioning with the public sector, and awareness of current issues and challenges in the treatment of substance misuse. In addition to effective liaison with service user and carer representatives, you will engage colleagues from local government, health, social care and criminal justice to get the most from the opportunities that the drug strategy offers. A broad understanding of national strategy and drug treatment is essential; you will also be fully versed in associated issues of criminal justice and social care, capable of applying considerable political sensitivity and, most of all, you will be passionate about making a difference.

Interview date: 7 June 2010 – Leeds, 8 June 2010 – Nottingham. Full details, including a role profile and application form, are available at [www.nta.nhs.uk](http://www.nta.nhs.uk) . **Closing date** for applications: 26th May 2010.