



Working together to prevent Drug related deaths in Scotland

Substance Harm Prevention Team – Safer Communities



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Substance Harm Prevention Team

- 1 x Inspector, 1 x Sergeant, 2 x Constables.
- Based at the Scottish Crime Campus Gartcosh, we lead on Police Scotland's Substance Harm Prevention approach at a national level, working closely with local divisions and both internal and external partners (Police Scotland's representatives PADS and link in with Scotland's ADP's).
- Additionally, we also promote the Choices for Life program and seek to identify emerging threats and trends through the recording of Drug Related Deaths (DRD's) nationally.
- Drug Death figures for the current year stand at 934, an 8% rise from the previous year.
- Ongoing prevention strategy to promote Naloxone use at an Operational Level in Police Scotland.
- Engagement with Recovery Communities.



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Drug Strategy and Research

- In 2008, The Scottish Government published its drug strategy, *The Road to Recovery*, which is under review with an imminent refresh due.
- Following on from this, the UK Drug Policy Commission (UKDPC) published *Getting Serious about Stigma in Scotland: The problem with stigmatising drug users* in February 2011. This identified that:
 - Over half (55%) of the Scottish sample agreed that “People with a history of drug dependence are a burden on society”;
 - 40% agreed that “A person would be foolish to enter into a relationship with someone who has previously been dependant on drugs”;
 - 49% agreed that “I would not want to live next door to someone who has previously been dependant on drugs”;
 - Two-thirds of respondents (66%) agreed that “We have a responsibility to provide the best possible care for people with drug dependence”;



Drug Strategy and Research

- 80% of respondents agreed that “It is important for people recovering from drug dependence to be part of the normal community”.
- The 2011 UKDPC publication outlines examples from other sectors which indicate that attitudes and behaviours can be changed, in particular in the field of mental health and with respect to HIV / AIDS.
- Police Scotland believes that by working together, identifying positive strategies; developing and establishing those that work, we can tackle Drug Related Deaths and assist those in recovery.



Workshop – # 1

Breaking down stigma and encouraging positive relationships between Police Scotland and the public (including Problematic Drug Users & those in recovery) is crucial when attempting to identify what needs an individual has.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-scotland-44157312/the-drug-cop-and-the-addict-in-recovery>

- What are the current barriers to eradicating Stigma in Scotland?
- What can be learned from previous campaigns (Mental Health – HIV/AIDS)?
- What can Police Scotland do to directly tackle Stigma?

Workshop – # 2

Police Scotland on many occasions have first contact and/or repeated contact with those tackling problematic drug use at time of crisis. It is therefore crucial that our practices around sharing information and developing stronger working partnerships are continually improved upon in order that those in need of assistance receive it at the earliest opportunity from the appropriate service.

- With regard to partnerships/links:
- What isn't working?
- What are the barriers and causal factors?

Workshop – # 3

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- With regard to partnerships/links:
- What should be improved/developed (What are the key partnerships)?
- What direct role can Police Scotland play to ensure those in need of assistance receive it?

Questions



Thank you all...

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