

Westminster Social Policy Forum and Westminster Health Forum Keynote Seminar
The future for drugs policy – treatment, rehabilitation, commissioning and education

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 13th December 2011

Venue: Hall of India and Pakistan, Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR

Agenda subject to change



- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Caroline Lucas MP
- 9.05 - 9.20 **Setting the context: drug use today**
How are patterns in drug use and culture changing, and why are they changing? Have patterns of drug use been affected by recent debate on the risks of illegal substances compared to legal substances such as alcohol? How effective and transparent is the current classification system in both educating citizens as to the effects of a drug, and as a deterrent for misuse?
Martin Barnes, Chief Executive, DrugScope
- 9.20 - 9.35 **Drug Strategy – progress so far and moving forward**
Following the publication of 'Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery: supporting people to live a drug-free life', what has been the impact on drug use and drug treatment services?
Gus Jaspert, Head of Drugs and Alcohol, Home Office
- 9.35 - 10.10 **Taking forward the strategy: personal responsibility and the role of education and health advice**
Following on from the Drug Strategy, which aims to set out a fundamentally different approach to preventing drug use through advocating personal responsibility, what should be the key priorities for the health service, education, the workplace and local communities, and for at-risk individuals and their families? What roles should the Government, third sector organisations, professional bodies and local communities take in trying to reduce demand for drugs, and supporting individuals, and particularly young people, to make informed choices about drugs? As debate about the decriminalisation of some substances continues, is it time to consider changes to the legal framework around drugs in the UK?
Brian Dobson, Chair, Drug Education Forum
Sebastian Saville, Executive Director, Release
Questions and comments from the floor with **Martin Barnes**, Chief Executive, DrugScope and **Gus Jaspert**, Head of Drugs and Alcohol, Home Office
- 10.10 - 10.30 **The view from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)**
An update on the work of the ACMD, including current advice on legal highs and on applying an evidence-based approach to the Government's recovery agenda.
Professor Les Iversen, Chairman, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Caroline Lucas MP
- 10.35 - 10.55 Coffee
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chairman's opening remarks**
David Burrowes MP, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Complex Needs and Dual Diagnosis
- 11.00 - 11.35 **Commissioning and delivery of prison and offender orientated services**
How successful has the Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare (CARAT) service been in combating prisoner drug addiction? What impact will changes to commissioning, including transferring funding to the Department of Health, have on the procurement and delivery of drug treatment and rehabilitation in prisons and post-release? How should Payment-by-Results pilot schemes be used in the prison setting? What more can be done to improve the integration between NHS, local authority and prison services with regards to drug treatment and mental health services? Does more need to be done to encourage innovation in service provision, for example using computerised technologies?
David Marteau, Section Head, Substance Misuse, Offender Health, Department of Health
Ian Wardle, Chief Executive Officer, Lifeline
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.35 - 12.30 **Building recovery in the community: assessing the priorities for providing integrated care and promoting rehabilitation**
In light of recent cuts to budgets and NHS reforms, what can be done to provide a high quality and consistent drug treatment service in the community? What is the anticipated impact of Payment-by-Results on drug treatment, and how will its success be measured? To what extent does the localism agenda provide local authorities with the opportunity to tailor services to local need? What can be done more widely to prevent drug use in the community? What special measures need to be put in place for dealing with those in vulnerable positions such as those suffering mental ill-health, or those in housing need, and particularly rough sleepers? What more can be done to improve the integration and quality of mental health services which operate alongside drug treatment delivery? Further to this, what more can be done to ensure that people recovering from addiction are given enough support to help them reintegrate back into society, including finding sustained employment and suitable housing?
Dr Tom Scanlon, Director of Public Health, NHS Brighton and Hove
Andrea Baker, Director of Housing, Poplar HARCA (Housing and Regeneration Community Association)
Deirdre Boyd, Chief Executive Officer, Addiction Recovery Foundation and Convener, Concordat
Dominic Ruffy, Chairman, RehabGrads
Yasmin Batliwala, Chair, Westminster Drug Project
Kathy Gyngell, Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Studies and Chair, Prisons and Addictions Forum
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Improving recovery services: next steps for policy**
Pete Burkinshaw, Skills and Development Manager, National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Social Policy Forum and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
David Burrowes MP, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Complex Needs and Dual Diagnosis
Lizzie Sayer, Senior Producer, Westminster Social Policy Forum and Westminster Health Forum