

DrugScope



Our mission: to minimise the harms drugs cause – to individuals, families and communities.

www.drugscope.org.uk

Illegal drug use



- Any drug: 11 million (34%)*
- Class A: 4.5 million (14%)
- No. of 'problematic drug users':
327,000 (England)

* British Crime Survey, England & Wales

'Hidden Harm'

- ACMD report, published 2003; update report 2007
- Estimated > 300,000 children of problem drug users in England & Wales; > 60,000 in Scotland

“I always thought I was the only one, you know, who had a Mum who does drugs.”

(10 year old male, West Dorset)

Vulnerability to problematic drug use



- In care
- Ever been homeless
- Truant or excluded from school
- Serious or frequent offending

Poverty and Exclusion

“Social disadvantage of all kinds overlap with problematic drug use in a vicious cycle of cause and effect”

RSA Commission



Drug Treatment



- 190-195,000 in treatment in 06/07
- Average age 28-30
- Predominantly white & male
- 31% complete treatment

Complex problems

- Alcohol
- Mental illness & substance misuse ('dual diagnosis')
- Disconnecting drug users from their families
- Most services designed for white male opiate users
- Failure to provide for women and also BME groups
- Stimulant use

Wraparound/aftercare support

- Housing / supported accommodation
- Relationship support
- Education & training
- Employment
- Childcare
- Parenting support

A holistic approach!

“...there is only a limited amount that can be achieved via national initiatives... Increasingly, the focus for facilitating drugs misusers’ access to ...support will be located with the local partnerships who directly control access to resources.” – NTA, 2007

Local responsibility. Local action.



- Local Strategic Partnerships
- Local Area Agreements
- Local Involvement Networks (LINKs)
- Community Call for Action (?)