

ISSUE 9

EDACT  
INTERACTIVE  
NEWSLETTER

APRIL 05



**helping to support  
the community**

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**highlights of our  
fourth annual seminar**

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**new chairperson to  
be elected in late april**

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# introduction

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**In this our ninth newsletter, we plan to bring you up to speed with the latest developments within EDACT over the last 6 months, and in particular highlight the work of our Subgroups.**

Thanks to Ed Sipler (Down Lisburn Trust), Rebecca Roberts (ASCERT), the Simon Community, Ards CSP, UU, QUB, IfH and CHNI for providing us with articles/info for this edition – please keep them coming – the more local news and pics we can include the better.

If you would like to let the sector know more about your organisation, your service, your event, research you have carried out, etc. please email: [kgilliland@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:kgilliland@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk) and we will either put it up on our website and/or in the next EDACT Newsletter.



## a new chairperson to be elected

Peter Bohill announced at the February Team Meeting his intention to stand down as Chairperson of EDACT.

The staff of EDACT, the Vice-Chair Gerry Bleakney, and the rest of the Team would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for all of the hard work, enthusiasm and leadership he has shown in the role over the past four years.

However we must look to the future, and thankfully we are not losing Peter altogether – he will remain on the Team as a representative of the treatment sector.

A new Chair will be elected at the next Team Meeting to be held on the 21st April 2005 (we will inform you of who the successful candidate is shortly after the meeting on our website: [www.edact.org](http://www.edact.org)).

# from the margins to the mainstream

## EDACT's 4th annual seminar

EDACT's 4th annual seminar was held on the 24th November 2004, in Lagan Valley Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, and raised fundamental questions about how we as professionals and society at large should respond to drug and alcohol use.

In a very practical way it highlighted that treatment alone will not be sufficient in helping people recover from drug and alcohol misuse.

For many, employment, training, housing, outreach and after care can be just as important in making a difference to their lives.

### Main Session

Presentations were given by;

- Daragh Shields, *Preparation for Work Division, Department for Employment and Learning*
- Patricia Russell, *Effective Interventions Unit, Scottish Executive Health Department*
- Julian Buchanan, *NEWI, University of Wales*
- Gareth Symes, *FFwd*

### Workshop on Employability

Presentations were given by the;

- Department for Employment and Learning
- Dunlewey Substance Advice Centre – Key to Change Programme.

### Workshop on Towards Inclusive Services

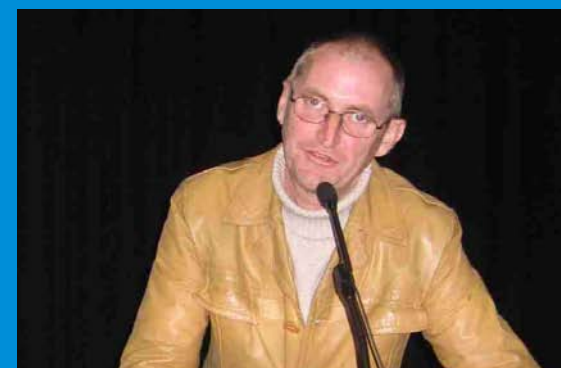
Presentations were given by the;

- South Belfast Drug Outreach Team
- Making a Real Change (MARC) Project
- The Rainbow Project

The presentations and workshops above highlighted various examples of services which complement and support people in making changes in their lives.

The conference also, particularly through Julian Buchanan's and Gareth Symes' presentations, challenged certain presumptions on how we view drug and alcohol users.

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# from the margins to the mainstream

## EDACT's 4th annual seminar

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Both presentations highlighted issues of discrimination, labelling, blame and moral judgements, all of which need to be addressed if social inclusion is to be addressed effectively.

A fundamental mind shift is needed, one which understands the social determinants of substance misuse.

The Seminar Steering Group met following the seminar to consider the issues raised and agreed on the following actions:

### **DEL Progress2Work Initiative**

EDACT will discuss with DEL how best to support this initiative when the project becomes established.

### **Consideration of accessibility issues by treatment subgroup.**

The issues raised in the workshop "Towards Inclusive Services" will be taken to EDACT's treatment subgroup.

This group will consider these issues in light of published research on "help-seeking behaviour" in order to determine appropriate action to increase the uptake of drugs and alcohol services among those groups who currently do not engage with these services.

### **Social inclusion**

The treatment subgroup will produce a paper on social inclusion to be considered by the other subgroups of EDACT.

This paper will outline the issues around social inclusion and ask the other subgroups to consider social inclusion issues when reviewing their work in the past year

and when drawing up their action plans for the forthcoming year.

The full report on the Annual Seminar (including copies of the speakers' presentations) is available to download in the 'Reports' section of our website.

## website information

The EDACT website, [www.edact.org](http://www.edact.org) will be updated on a monthly basis and we would appreciate you letting us know about any local news, projects, courses, seminars, research, etc that you feel we should include on the site.

This is your opportunity to share information with the rest of your colleagues in the Eastern Board area (and beyond), so please email Kelly with any comments or suggestions—[kgilliland@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:kgilliland@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk)

# WWW. EDACT. ORG

# mapping drugs prevention in the EHSSB area

## // prevention subgroup

The Prevention Subgroup of EDACT is aiming to map all the groups and agencies in the Eastern Health and Social Services Board area who have been involved in drug\* prevention work over the past year (04/05) by sending out a questionnaire at the end of April 2005.

It is hoped that from the information gathered we will be able to:

- Identify who is delivering drug prevention projects within the EDACT area and to whom
- Identify what types of programmes/projects are running and identify if there are any gaps in terms of provision
- Map existing partnership working in drug prevention
- Identify those agencies or groups for whom funding to sustain their drug prevention work is an issue.

This data will help shape future planning for EDACT as we strive to increase the consistency of approach by sharing models of good practice and promoting meaningful partnerships within the EHSSB.

The questionnaire will also be available to download and complete from the 'Reports' section within EDACT's website.

A rationale is included with the questionnaire and your local forum community facilitators, as well as representatives of the Prevention Subgroup, will be available if you need any help or advice when filling it in.

Please note that those groups who carry out a number of different drug prevention programmes or projects should complete a separate questionnaire for each one.

Once completed, the questionnaire(s) should be returned to:

Kelly Gilliland  
EDACT  
1 Cromac Quay  
The Gas Works  
Belfast  
BT7 2JD

**By Tuesday 31 May 2005**

\*NB A drug is defined as a substance that changes the body in some way. This includes alcohol, tobacco, over the counter and prescribed medication, volatile substances and controlled drugs.



# guiding effective drug prevention paper // prevention subgroup

On the 21 February 2005, EDACT's Prevention Subgroup held a half-day consultation seminar regarding a paper they had produced entitled 'Guiding Effective Drug Prevention.' Key individuals and agencies known to have a drug prevention focus were invited along on the day to give their views (1) on the content of the paper and more specifically on the 17 research-based principles recommended within it and (2) on how it should be used and promoted by EDACT.

The paper and principles were welcomed by all, although a few people expressed concern regarding its length and the language used at times within it. As a result, a 6-page summary version has now been produced which should hopefully make it more user-friendly especially for the community and voluntary sector.

Everyone in attendance agreed that this paper should be used, at least within EDACT and preferably also by others likely to fund drug prevention projects, to judge funding proposals for drug prevention work i.e. under our Small Grants Scheme.

We intend to speak to local funding bodies within the EDACT area such as the LHSCGs, Investing for Health Partnerships, Community Safety Partnerships and so on to make them aware of the document and encourage them to use it when assessing any drug prevention bids they may receive in the future.

The next stage is to promote the use of the paper locally within the EHSSB area. EDACT would ultimately like to get the paper adopted regionally as an appropriate guidance document.

The paper and summary version as they stand now are available to download from the 'Reports' section of our website. Obviously because it is a good practice document and new research will become available a review date will need to be built in to the final version.

[Effective Principles for Prevention](#)  
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# effective principles for prevention

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1. Prevention programmes should be evidence-based, theory-driven and needs-led.
2. Having clearly identified need, prevention programmes should address known risk factors and should also seek to enhance protective factors.
3. Having clearly identified need, prevention programmes should specify the following components; the target population (universal, selective or indicated), the setting(s), the proposed approach(es) and should have clearly defined goals.
4. Monitoring and evaluation – before, during and after the programme – should be an integral part of prevention programmes. This involves measuring processes, outcomes and impact.
5. Partnerships should be created primarily for effectiveness. Partnerships created for funding purposes alone are often ineffective.
6. To be most effective, prevention programmes within a specific community may have to develop multiple strategies in multiple settings.
7. Programmes should be audience-appropriate (taking into account age, experience and ability).
8. Early interventions can be more effective because they make an impact before the problem stabilises.
9. Programmes designed to explore the risks of drugs should take into consideration the differences between types of drugs, drug users and the diverse reasons for taking drugs.
10. Delay of gratification is an important consideration for substance misuse. Many people, especially young people, are more influenced by immediate, rather than long-term rewards, and this should be reflected in prevention programmes.
11. Normative education (correction of misconceptions about the perceived high prevalence, availability and acceptability of drug use) can be beneficial.
12. Effective prevention should include a broad skill-base and a health and wellbeing dimension.
13. Interactive approaches are more effective than didactic teaching. Programmes are enhanced by involving participants in the design, delivery and evaluation process.
14. Programme facilitators should be adequately trained. Both confidence and competence are essential.
15. One-off interventions have limited impact. More intensive programmes have been shown to be more effective, although intensity alone does not necessarily ensure effectiveness.
16. Effective programmes have tended to include booster sessions i.e. follow up sessions which reinforce and add to the key objectives of the original programme.
17. Parental and community components increase effectiveness.

# community development work on drug and alcohol issues // communities subgroup

EDACT's Communities subgroup has as part of its terms of reference: "To produce recommendations on how to promote a strategic approach to substance misuse within a community development framework."

In order to do this it is first necessary to look at the community development work currently being undertaken to address drug/alcohol issues.

The Communities subgroup has attempted to get a snapshot of this work by distributing a questionnaire asking organisations and community groups to provide some information on any such work they are involved in.

There is a range of models of community development and, of course, much work which is carried out at community level which does not use a community development model.

The subgroup therefore felt that it was important to define community development. The following definition was adapted from Adams, L. (1989) "Healthy Cities, Healthy Participation" Health Education Journal, Vol. 484 pp179-182:

**Community development is a process whereby a community is enabled to define its needs, and is supported to develop the confidence and resources to take action to address them.**

The subgroup also identified certain values/principles, which it considers are integral to the community development process:

**Accountability**— those engaged in community development work should be accountable to the community in which they are working.

**Participation**— the community development process should involve the participation of the target community.

**Inclusion**— the community development process should seek to include the diversity of groups that exist within a community.

**Empowerment**— the community development process should seek to increase the degree of control a community has over the social, economic and political forces that impact upon it.

**Collaboration**— a community development process should seek to increase communication and the pooling of resources both within and between communities.

**Sustainability**— a community development process should strive to develop skills and capacity within a community to enable the community to become more self-reliant and to sustain its development.

**Needs focused**— a community development process should focus on the needs of a community as defined by that community.

**Social justice**— community development projects should ensure that equality/social justice issues are addressed at all levels within their work.

Using the above definition and principles, the subgroup asked respondents to describe any community development projects addressing drug/alcohol issues in which they were involved.

The definition of community development work adopted is not intended to be exclusive and the subgroup expressed its willingness to revise this definition if necessary.

[Continued on next page>>](#)

# community development work on drug and alcohol issues // communities subgroup

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The response to the questionnaire has enabled the subgroup to identify a number of projects using community development models.

These projects will be contacted by EDACT in order to look more closely at the models they employ. Particularly the subgroup will be interested in:

- Monitoring and evaluation – in what terms the projects measure their impact.
- How the work of the project fits with the 8 principles/values listed above.
- How the projects are funded.
- Whether the projects are strategically driven and which strategies they are linked to.
- What the mix of professional and volunteer staff is.

- Whether the project is part of a partnership.

- What the project's needs for the future are.

This information will be collated to give a picture of the different models of community development currently employed in the drug/alcohol field, the issues being addressed and impact of the work.

The Communities subgroup is also looking at a range of strategies, which may have an influence on community development work re. drugs/alcohol, such as:

- The Drugs Strategy for Northern Ireland
- The Strategy to Reduce Alcohol Related Harm
- Pathways for Change/ Investing Together
- Investing for Health
- The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy
- NIHE Corporate Plan

- PBNI Corporate Plan

- The Community Safety Strategy

By looking at the work already being undertaken and the strategic context in which this is developed, the subgroup will produce recommendations on the promotion of a strategic approach to substance misuse within a community development framework.

These recommendations should be useful to both organisations working in this field and to the strategies which may provide funding for this work.

# JSPG on drugs and alcohol

## // under EHSSB children's services planning

The impact of substance misuse within children's services and in particular among vulnerable young people was the subject of a needs assessment carried out by DHSSPS in 2003.

While the report was unable to gather sufficient hard data on prevalence, a number of key issues emerged across the sector as a whole concerning:

- the need for more specialist training
- the need to develop policies and procedures
- the lack of specialist services.

The report remains unpublished and is still being considered by the Drug and Alcohol Strategy Team within DHSSPS.

The EDACT Joint Strategic Planning Group on Drugs and Alcohol was set up to look at the issue of substance misuse among children's services within the EHSSB area.

'Together for Children' is out for consultation from 1 April 2005, it details the proposed work of all of the JSPGs for the next 3 years. The report can be accessed via our website.

The following draft objectives have been set for 2005-2008:

- Lobby the DHSSPS that children and young people should be central in their revision of the drug and alcohol strategies
  - Assess the level of training needs across all four tiers of service delivery
  - Develop a screening tool and common assessment tool for drugs and alcohol misuse
  - Carry out an audit of the level of alcohol abuse amongst parents/carers of children on the child protection register
  - Improve practice at the interface between adult addiction services and children's services
  - Develop a mentoring system for the most vulnerable young people.
  - Involve young people in its work.
- Current membership of the JSPG:
- Owen O'Neill, EDACT
  - Kelly Gilliland, EDACT
  - John Duffy, EHSSB
  - Anne-Marie McClure, Opportunity Youth
  - Norma Patterson, Contact Youth
  - Roisin Tomlinson, Young People's Centre
  - Kim Scott, SEELB
  - Peter Dornan, BELB
  - Annette Goodall, Dunlewey Substance Advice
  - Lorraine Noade, Down Lisburn HSS Trust
  - Ed Sipler, Down Lisburn HSS Trust
  - Philip O'Hara, North and West Belfast HSS Trust
  - Eddie Alcorn, PSNI
  - Isobel Reilly, Queen's University Belfast

# survey template // information group

Following on from requests from the community and voluntary sector EDACT has produced a 'survey template' which groups can use when carrying out research into drug prevalence.

The template is based on the DAIRU All Ireland Drug Misuse Survey and also incorporates the EMCDDA survey recommendations and includes questions on the person's use of; tobacco, prescription meds, alcohol, and illicit drugs.

It also has sections on 'opinions and risks' and 'respondent attributes' and amounts to just over 50 questions in total.

It should be noted that the template is quantitative rather than qualitative mainly looking at measuring usage/prevalence.

EDACT may, depending on interest and how well this tool is received and used, look at developing other templates of a more qualitative nature for use with specific target groups such as young people.

It is hoped that it will be used not only within the EDACT area but also in other parts of the region and that it will therefore allow for greater comparison locally and regionally.

Whilst EDACT will be more than happy to receive reports on the findings of your surveys, it should be noted that it will be up to groups themselves to collate, analyse and present the data gathered.

The template will be available for use, from May 2005 and groups will be able to download it from the EDACT website.

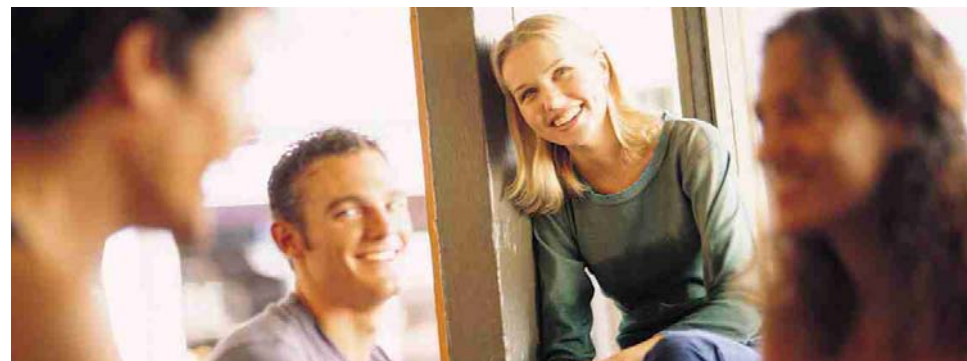
# annual report // information subgroup

We have commenced the data collection process for our Annual Report for 2004. We hope to have this published for June 2005.

If you are aware of any local data or research relating to drugs and/or alcohol which you think would be useful to include in our annual report please get in touch with Kelly: Tel: 028 90434248 or email: [kgilliland@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:kgilliland@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk)

# Talking to our children about tough issues

## // a new resource for the EHSSB area



In 2002, Ed Sipler from Down Lisburn Trust and Davis Turkington, then working for Dunlewey Substance Advice Centre, had joined together to offer “awareness sessions” on drug issues for parents.

Parents attending these sessions were quick to say that they needed more than awareness. They needed skills. *Talking to our Children about Tough Issues* is a response to that challenge.

A partnership formed and the programme and resources were developed. Staff involved ran three pilots of the material in Carryduff, Downpatrick and Dromora. With a positive response from these pilots, staff training was developed. To date, 70 staff from 26 organisations have been trained to deliver this resource in the Eastern Board area.

A further 8 workshops are being run in order to evaluate its benefits to parents.

The purpose of *Talking to our Children about Tough Issues* is to help parents and carers understand and build protective factors in their families that help prevent problems across a range of risky behaviours including alcohol and other drug misuse.

There are 2 key ideas behind this work.

- Research consistently shows young people with fewer risk factors and stronger protective factors are less likely to develop problems across a range of risky behaviours including misuse of alcohol and other drugs.
- These protective factors can be developed in families, schools and communities.

The aims of *Talking to our Children about Tough Issues* are to:

- Explore risk factors and protective factors that make a difference for our children.
- Increase skills and strategies that build these protective factors.
- Increase our confidence as parents and carers to openly talk to our children in order to influence their attitudes around a range of risky things like substance misuse.

It is by no means a quick fix or a magic answer. It can, however, give parents and carers ideas that can make a significant difference for their children.

Through funding from The Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety, Eastern Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team, Lisburn Health and Social

Care Group, Ards Health and Social Care Group, Down Health and Social Care Group, North Down Health and Social Care Group, Lisburn Health and Social Care Group, and South and East Belfast Health and Social Care Group a resource pack was developed to support the workshops with a leaflet entitled *The Power of Parents in a Child's World* that gives an overview of risk and protective factors and a workbook to help develop skills.

Both of these resources can be downloaded from EDACT's website or by visiting: [www.toyourhealth.org.uk](http://www.toyourhealth.org.uk)

**For more information contact Ed Sipler, Health Development Department, Down Lisburn Trust on 028 8756 3129.**

# national drug treatment conference // feedback

The National Drug Treatment Conference was held in the Victoria Park Plaza Hotel, London on the 21st and 22nd February 2005.

This conference has established itself as the biggest event in the drug field calendar in the UK, providing an opportunity for service providers, purchasers, users and researchers to come together to discuss the latest research, ideas and problems. Keynote speakers on the first day of the conference were Professor Gerry Stimson, Chief Executive of the International Harm Reduction Association and Ian Wardle, Chief Executive of Lifeline.

Professor Stimson gave a global perspective on harm reduction, concentrating on recent efforts by the US government to curb UN funding for harm reduction initiatives. Ian Wardle gave a history of harm reduction, identifying and discussing two traditions within the harm reduction movement: the "normalising" tradition and the "pragmatic" tradition.

Following this was a very interesting section on user involvement with speakers discussing the importance of involving users in the running and development of drug and alcohol services.

That user involvement is now a statutory requirement for DATs in England & Wales was reflected in the high visibility of representatives from users' groups at the conference. Some of the projects showcased explained how they had involved users in the recruitment of staff for drug/alcohol services and how they had involved users in research and development.

In the afternoon there was a presentation from Karen McElrath of QUB on "Injecting, drug treatment and needle exchange in Northern Ireland". This presentation detailed Karen's latest research into the effectiveness of service provision for IV drug users in Northern Ireland and the factors which influence risk behaviour among this group.

The afternoon closed with a debate on the motion "This house believes that we need more coercive testing and treatment services."

The motion was defeated after a lively debate, which hung largely on the question of whether the funding associated with coercive testing/treatment, outweighed the reservations of practitioners around the ethics and effectiveness of coercion.

There were a number of fringe meetings in the evening. Of particular interest was a meeting on "Pharmacy Issues" which contained presentations on the positive experiences of pharmacists who had put particular effort into ensuring that their drug-using clients were treated with respect and afforded some privacy when accessing services such as needle and syringe exchange or when collecting prescriptions for substitute opiates.

Day 2 of the conference opened with a series of presentations on "the impact of non-opioid drug use on opiate maintenance treatment." These presentations addressed a number of issues associated with "using on top" from the point of view of the practitioner and the user; the consensus being that the most appropriate response was the use of a harm reduction approach to the non-opioid drug use.

The morning closed with ten parallel sessions, including a presentation by Dr Peter Cohen of the University of Amsterdam. Dr Cohen's presentation went through some of his latest research into patterns of amphetamine and cocaine use. Using a community based sample, Dr Cohen was able to analyse the patterns of use of a representative group of amphetamine and cocaine users, rather than sampling from a treatment population.

Using this sample he was able to show that only a small percentage of the users of these drugs ever present for treatment, with most users following a pattern of heavier use when they are young which reduces as they mature. Dr Cohen used these results to challenge our society's construction of amphetamine and cocaine as deviant or pathological.

The day closed with two presentations on "Scaling up services", including a very interesting presentation on a "no waiting list" service in Wirral.

Details of all the speakers can be found at: [www.exchangesupplies.org/conferences/2005\\_NDTC/programe.html](http://www.exchangesupplies.org/conferences/2005_NDTC/programe.html) where some of the speakers' powerpoint presentations and audio files containing recordings of some of the presentations are available to download.

# review of drug and alcohol strategies // update

**The DHSSPS appointed Howard Parker, Emeritus Professor at Manchester University, as an expert consultant to carry out the Review on the effectiveness of the NI Drug and Alcohol Strategies.**

Professor Parker was supported in his task by local management consultants, Deloitte.

Within the EHSSB area, Deloitte consulted with the following groups:

- Eastern Drugs and Alcohol Co-Ordination Team members
- Representatives from Regional Action Plan and Local Action Plan funded projects within the EHSSB
- Community facilitators and members of the 6 local drugs and alcohol forums within the EHSSB.

Deloitte will collate the feedback from these sessions and the views of the other regional DACTs and provide a Professor Parker with a synopsis.

He will use this and his own findings to produce a report (including his recommendations for the new Drug and Alcohol Strategies) for the DHSSPS.

Please keep checking our website for more updates re. this topic over the coming months.

# EDACT's revised small grants scheme // update

As most of you should know, EDACT has operated a small grants scheme for the past few years. The Finance Sub Committee met recently to revise the scheme – i.e. the criteria, guidance, application process and scoring system have all been revamped.

The Team is due to meet in April and, once the members have approved the revised scheme, it is expected that a new funding round will commence in May 2005.

The new forms and guidance will be available from the 'Grants' section of the website at the end of April/beginning of May 2005.

# Simon Community // alcohol practice manual

The homeless charity, the Simon Community recently published an alcohol practice manual for their 160 supported accommodation staff.

The aim of the manual is to promote positive working practices amongst staff dealing with alcohol issues.

and experiences of staff and service users in relation to alcohol use and misuse, as well as offering guidance on best practice issues.

The production of the manual was supported and funded by the Eastern Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team. Copies of the publication are available by visiting the Simon Community's website [www.simoncommunity.org](http://www.simoncommunity.org) or the 'Reports' section of EDACT's website.

# Ards Community Safety Partnership // Ards off licence code of practice

Having obtained funding from EDACT and Wellnet, Ards Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has produced a Code of Practice booklet for off-licences in the Ards area.

**The Code of Practice aims to:**

- Reduce the availability of alcohol to young people
- Assist enforcement bodies in identifying the source of alcohol obtained by young people.
- Identify responsible and socially aware off-licenses.

The Ards CSP and the Ards Anti-Social Behaviour Team will be actively encouraging all off licences throughout the area to sign up to the code which effectively lays down the guiding principles for the socially responsible sale of alcohol.

For copies of the Code or to find out more, contact Colin Reid on Tel: 028 91824044 or Email: [colin.reid@ards-council.gov.uk](mailto:colin.reid@ards-council.gov.uk)



# Council for the Homeless Northern Ireland (CHNI) // to offer training to homeless and drugs services

Recent research<sup>1</sup> indicates that considerable training needs exist for those working in the field of homelessness, around the issues of substance misuse and how they directly relate and affect people experiencing homelessness. Comparable training needs exist for those working within the drugs and alcohol field in terms of homelessness.

To this end, CHNI, in conjunction with training organisations from the field of substance misuse, are soon to offer regional training to both sectors.

It is envisaged that the programme will provide information and support to workers in both fields focusing on the pertinent issues regarding substance use and misuse and how these impact upon homeless people and service delivery.

Training will include awareness raising regarding the varied and complex needs of homeless people with substance misuse problems,

information sharing and opportunities for networking, as well as providing information on signposting and referral pathways, rights & responsibilities, routes to & from homelessness, support options, practical and general assessment issues.

It is hoped these steps will go some way to ensure that those in accommodation & homelessness services, working directly with homeless people can better identify and deal with substance use/misuse issues; and those in the substance misuse field better understand the factors that shape paths to and out of homelessness.

CHNI would like to take the opportunity to invite drug and alcohol organisations to contribute to the content of the training programme.

Those with contributions, queries, and/or any advice should contact Yvonne Hayes, Training Officer, CHNI Training Department, 72 North Street Belfast BT1 1LD, 02890 246 400.

<sup>1</sup>*Deloitte MCS Ltd (2004). Research into Homelessness and substance misuse. Drug & Alcohol Information Research Unit, DHSSPS, Belfast. Ref 172/2004.*

# northern ireland training // coming up

## NI training feature on courses provided by ASCERT, Lisburn

### Working with Adolescent Substance Misusers

This updated 3-day professional development course is designed to enable practitioners working with young people develop the knowledge, skills and strategies to effectively help them in addressing substance misuse issues.

It looks at the following issues: Why young people use and what they use, assessment practices, where adolescent drug users are in terms of their drug use, where we work in the prevention continuum, harm reduction – issues, practice and strategies, the stages of change model, behavioural change strategies and motivational interviewing – practical skills applications.

It is planned that this course will be run 3 times during 2005. Two skills-focused follow up days are also offered to reinforce the practical elements of the course. Participants will be encouraged to attend either or both of these days.

**Course Dates:**  
14th-16th June 2005, Lisburn –

Non-residential (Cost: £75)  
**8th-10th November 2005**,  
Comber Residential/La Mon Hotel  
(Cost: £150)  
**Follow Up Days:**  
**21st September 2005** and  
**7th December 2005** (cost included  
in course fee)

**Train the Trainer (OCN Level 3)**  
To be eligible for this course you must first have completed the ASCERT Level 2 Community Drug Awareness, or an equivalent OCR Level 2 Drug Awareness course. The course comprises of 3 units; Substance and Knowledge, Training and Learning Theory and Practice, and Delivery of Training.

If accepted on to the course you are expected to commit to completion of the following:

- Ten days of direct training
- Background reading
- Preparation for delivery of training
- Completion of Evidence file
- Delivery of assessed training module.

By the end of the course participants will be able to:  
Undertake an appropriate and

effective needs analysis in any give situation, write SMART objectives, plan and complete comprehensive and effective training events/ programmes, achieve a knowledge level around drugs and misuse issues relevant to being a competent and confident trainer, and deliver training competently and effectively. The Train the Trainer course will be commencing again from **Tuesday 20th September 2005** (from 10am to 4.30pm) in ASCERT's Lisburn office and will run for a total of 30 weeks.

**Community Drug Awareness (OCN Level 2)**The Community Drug Awareness course is a foundation course with 2 units, namely Facts, Myths and Attitudes, and Drugs and the Community.

The course content includes the following topics:

- What is a drug?
- What are the different categories of drugs?
- What effects do drugs have on the body?
- How do drugs work in the brain?
- Individual drug research
- Drugs and the law

- The cannabis legalisation debate
- Attitudes to drug related issues
- Who uses and why?
- Possession, supply and trafficking
- The impact of drugs on the individual, the family and the community
- Designing community assessment tools
- The epidemiological triangle, the victim triangle, risk and protective factors, etc
- Overview of NI Drugs Strategy and how it's implemented
- Keeping safe and first aid issues
- The prevention continuum and stages of usage
- Harm minimisation approaches
- Evaluation

The Community Drug Awareness course will be commencing again from **Thursday 8th September 2005** (from 1pm to 4pm) in ASCERT's Lisburn office and will run for a total of 10 weeks. To find out more or to request a booking form for any of the above courses please email:  
**rebecca@ascert.biz** or call Elaine on 028 92604422

# northern ireland conferences

## // coming up

### **19 MAY 2005 - W5 @ The Odyssey Working Together to Achieve Healthier Communities**

This is the inaugural Investing for Health South and East Belfast and Castlereagh standing conference which aims to build upon the current success and efforts of the public, voluntary and community sectors on the Health and Social Improvement Agenda within these EHSSB areas.

The event will showcase a number of approaches currently achieving strong positive outcomes for individuals and communities.

The conference will also agree future priorities to be taken forward by stakeholders under the theme of Investing for Health.

If you would like to find out more or register for a place please contact Lorraine Bell on  
Tel: 028 90565634 or Email:  
[lorraine.bell@sebt.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:lorraine.bell@sebt.n-i.nhs.uk)

### **7-9 SEPTEMBER 2005 - Jordanstown Campus/ University of Ulster International Multidisciplinary Addictions Conference 2005 in Northern Ireland**

This conference is being organised by the University of Ulster in collaboration with the Addictions Forum and the Nursing Council on Alcohol.

The Conference Planning Group is meeting in late April to decide the final programme, costs, etc., however for those who may be interested in attending we will be posting further details in the 'News' section of our website, as they are released.

### **15 SEPTEMBER 2005 - W5 @ The Odyssey Drug Use amongst School Children: Findings from the Youth Development Study**

This conference, organised by the Institute of Child Care Research (QUB), will present and debate current research evidence on the development of drug use and other

problem behaviours in school aged children. It will review best practice models and guidance on the organisation and provision of multi-agency integrated services to meet the needs of school children with drug use problems.

#### **Keynote speakers will include:**

**Prof Sir Michael Rutter**  
(Institute of Psychiatry)

**Dr Eilish Gilvarry**  
(Northern Regional Drug  
& Alcohol Service)

**Rob Phipps**  
(Drug and Alcohol Strategy Unit,  
DHSSPSNI)

Initial findings from the first four years of the Youth Development Study, a large-scale longitudinal cohort study of adolescents in Northern Ireland, will also be presented.

To find out more please contact Andrew Percy, Tel: 028 90974610 or Email: [a.percy@qub.ac.uk](mailto:a.percy@qub.ac.uk)

# UK conferences // coming up

## 25 APRIL 2005 - LONDON Young People and Substance Misuse Regional Conference 2005: Partnership Working for Positive Change

This one day regional conference, organised by Drugscope, will provide delegates with an opportunity to explore the issues surrounding the new proposals for integrated services, and what this means for people working in the substance misuse sector.

Delegates will leave the conference with a better understanding of the changes ahead and practical knowledge of new ideas from people working on the ground via breakout sessions.

Cost: From £164.50  
For more information contact  
Drugscope Events:  
Call 020 7928 1211 or email:  
[events@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:events@drugscope.org.uk)

## 28-29 APRIL 2005 - LONDON The 10th National Conference: Management of Drug Users in Primary Care

Organised by the RCGP and Healthcare Events, this conference is focused on primary care and is billed as the essential event of the year for GPs, Shared Care Workers, Specialists, Commissioners and Drug Users.

Cost: One day - £223.25  
or Both days - £393.63  
For more information call Susie  
Valentine on 0208 541 1399,  
or email: [susie@healthcare-  
events.co.uk](mailto:susie@healthcare-events.co.uk) or visit:  
[www.healthcare-events .co.uk](http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk)

## 19-21 MAY 2005 - LONDON 2nd UK/European Symposium on Addictive Disorders (UKESAD) 'To match or not to match – enhancing client outcomes'

This year's UKESAD has been organised by the Addiction Recovery Foundation, FDAP, Priory Healthcare, RAPt and others. Contributors include: Prof. Carlo DiClemente on *Cycles of Change for Professionals*,

John Friel on *Couples Counselling*, Dr Iain Bourne on *Handling and Preventing Violence*, Bill Puddicombe on *Brief Interventions*, Dr Patrick DeChello and colleagues on *Supervision*, Dr Harry Sumnall on *Evidence-based Prevention*, Prof. Bob Lynn and colleagues on *Outcome-based Purchasing and Provision* and Cathy Howlett and Alan Rosenbach on *Whole-system Commissioning*. This event is accredited for CPD/ training credits: FDAP, ICRC, CME.

Cost: One or Two days – £125 per day/Three days – £325  
For more information and a booking form contact the administration office: Call 020 7233 5333 or email: [info@ukesad.org](mailto:info@ukesad.org) or visit: [www.ukesad.org](http://www.ukesad.org)

## 24 MAY 2005 - LONDON Throughcare and Aftercare for Drug Using Offenders – The Last Piece in the Jigsaw for Drug Intervention Programmes

Organised by Spotlight, this conference sets out the challenges ahead for those involved in commissioning, managing, delivering and monitoring throughcare and aftercare with drug using offenders.

Speakers will include Prof. Howard Parker, Russell Webster and senior staff from the Home Office, Probation Service, Adfam,

Cranstoun Drug Services and the Institute for Criminal Policy Research, King's College London.

Cost: £176.25 for VSOs or £282 for Statutory Orgs.  
For more information contact  
Spotlight: Call 0870 351 8720  
or email:  
[bookings@policyspotlight.co.uk](mailto:bookings@policyspotlight.co.uk)  
or visit: [www.policyspotlight.co.uk](http://www.policyspotlight.co.uk)

## 7 June 2005 - LONDON Meeting Drug Treatment Needs – Innovative Strategies for Quality Accessible Services

This conference, organised by Neil Stewart Associates, will look at the latest innovative strategies to reduce drug addiction and improve treatment, including increasing service accessibility, reaching previously marginalised communities, and effective cross-sector provision – including working with employment, housing and education services.

Invited speakers include Carol Flint (MP), Lord Victor Adebawale, Paul Hayes and others.

Cost: From £222-399 plus VAT  
For more information call:  
020 7324 4373 or email:  
[amanda.smith@neilstewart  
associates.co.uk](mailto:amanda.smith@neilstewartassociates.co.uk) or visit:  
[www.neilstewartassociates .co.uk](http://www.neilstewartassociates.co.uk)

# contact details

EDACT  
Eastern Drugs & Alcohol  
CoOrdination Team  
1 Cromac Quay, Gas Works,  
Ormeau Road,  
Belfast, BT7 2JD.

Telephone—028 9043 4248  
Facsimile—028 9031 3563

Web—[www.edact.org](http://www.edact.org)  
Email Addresses—  
[oneill@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:oneill@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk)  
[kgilliland@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:kgilliland@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk)  
[dturkington@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:dturkington@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk)  
[mireland@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:mireland@ehssb.n-i.nhs.uk)

