Taking away the chaos: the case for Scotland to implement the UK’s first drug consumption room

PHINS, 13th September 2019
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Acknowledgement

• Mark Rodgers, Management Trainee
• Dr Emily Tweed, Higher Trainee, Public Health
• Dr Emilia Crighton, Deputy Director Public Health, NHS GG&C
• Glasgow ADP & HSCP
• SDCF/HAT Short Life Working Group
• HIV Incident Management Team
• EMCDDA
• Prof Sir John Strang
• Drs Rebecca Metcalfe, Tony Martin, Erica Peters
Overview

1. Background to Glasgow Proposals: ‘Taking away the chaos’ report

2. Safer Drug Consumption Facilities (SDCF/SIFs/DCRs)

3. Current status
Background

- Botulism, 2014-15
- Anthrax, 2009-10
- Clostridium novyi, 2000

- Rising Drug-related deaths

- Community/Business concerns
HIV in PWID Glasgow City 1985-2015

The graph shows the number of new diagnoses of HIV in PWID (People Who Inject Drugs) in Glasgow City from 1985 to 2015. The trend indicates a decline in diagnoses from 1985 to around 1995, followed by a fluctuating pattern with a notable increase in the last few years, reaching a peak in 2015.
Drug-related deaths in Glasgow City 1997-2018

- No of Drug related deaths
- 5-year average
- Lower 95% CI
- Upper 95% CI

Glasgow City HSCP
“Taking away the chaos”
The health needs of people who inject drugs in public places in Glasgow city centre
Methods

Local data

Evidence review

Consultation
Prevalence & demographics

Few reliable data on size of population but 400-500

Predominantly:

- Male
- Scottish origin
- Aged 30-50

Multiple and complex needs (SMD):

- Homelessness
- Recent incarceration
- Destitution
“Why inject in public?”

“If I was rattling [withdrawing] I’d go anywhere.”

“Desperation.”

“I had to go down below a bridge to inject with other using addicts, as a result of if I get caught doing it in the hostel, I would have been papped out.”
Locations
Reports of drug-related litter, GCC 2015
## Service development

1. Inter-sectoral co-ordination

2. Peer support network

3. Meeting the specific needs of this population

4. Injecting equipment provision
Report recommendations

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ACMD

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Drug related deaths in England and Wales

A public health and primary care emergency

John Middleton president1, Sara McGrail independent health policy specialist2, Ken Stringer independent consultant in substance misuse2

1Faculty of Public Health, London NW1 4LB, UK; 2Telford, Shropshire, UK

December 2016
Safer consumption facilities

Hygienic environments where illicit drugs (purchased off the premises) can be consumed under clinical supervision

- Sterile injecting equipment
- Advice on injecting technique
- Overdose assistance
- On-site health & social services
geographical spread of DCRs in 8 countries
SIFs- evidence base:

- Engage target population
- Reduce sharing of injecting equipment
- Reduce public injecting
- Reduce drug-related litter
- Help people engage with addictions and other health services
- Reduce Drug related deaths
- Reduce BBV transmission
- Cost-savings in Australia and Canada
SIFs- evidence base:

- No impact on crime or disorder
- No “Honeypot” effect
- Public acceptability over time
Update SDCF:
Update SDCF:
Tories pile pressure on Theresa May to allow safe injection room for drug users

**Exclusive:** Demand comes after concerns raised by the National Aids Trust regarding HIV infection rates in Glasgow

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Sunday 5 August 2018 17:38 | 
The end