National Assembly for Wales / Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Health and Social Care Committee / Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol

Inquiry into alcohol and substance misuse / Ymchwiliad i gamddefnyddio alcohol a sylweddau

Evidence from Drugaid - ASM(AI) 29 / Tystiolaeth gan Drugaid - ASM(AI) 29

The National Assembly for Wales' Health and Social Care Committee is a group of ten Assembly Members from across Wales who represent the four political parties who make up the Assembly. The Committee's job is to hold the Welsh Government to account on health and social care within Wales, including finance, administration, policy and legislation.

## The National Assembly for Wales's Health and Social Care Committee is callooking into the issue of alcohol and substance misuse in Wales.

We have recently been doing some work on new psychoactive substances which are sometimes called "legal highs" - our report will be out in the New Year. We want to build on that work, and so we are now looking into issues of alcohol and substance misuse. As part of our inquiry we want to know about the effect that alcohol and substance misuse has on people in Wales, how well these issues are currently being tackled, and whether the right local services are in place across Wales to help people and make sure that they know about the possible harms.

Giving us your views will help us make sure that we can take into account how alcohol and substance misuse affects real people in Wales on a daily basis.

We will consider all of the written responses that we receive, as well as taking oral evidence from key organisations, and from the Welsh Government. We will then write and publish a report which makes recommendations to the Welsh Government. You will be able to find the report on the **Committee's website**.

If you or somebody you know has been affected by alcohol or substance misuse, or if you would like more information about them you can contact DAN 24/7 for advice. DAN 24/7 is a free and confidential helpline for anyone in Wales wanting further information or help relating to drugs and or alcohol. You can find more information here:

Freephone: 0808 808 2234 or text DAN to: 81066 www.dan247.org.uk



The National Assembly for Wales Commission is the data controller of the personal information you provide. Personal information will be processed in line with the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your response will be stored on Assembly ICT equipment and in Survey Monkey, and deleted at the end of the inquiry, and any paper copies destroyed. Survey Monkey use servers outside the European Union.

Please contact us for further information about how Survey Monkey handles information:

## outreachteam@wales.gov.uk

O1 Do you currently work for an organisation which works with people who misuse alcohol or other substances? If so, please state which organisation and whether we should treat your response as being on behalf of that organisation, or as a personal response from you.

I CURRENTLY WORK FOR DRUGAND AT THE PHOENIX
CENTRE IN CAERDHILLY, SUPPORTING PEOPLE BUTH
BUTH ALCOHOL AND OTHER SUBSTANCE MISUSE ISSUES.
A THOUGH REPRESENTING DRUGAID SOME OF THERE
REPRODES SHOULD BE TRANKED AS PERSONAL.

**02** Which client group(s) do you work with? (For example, under 18s, older persons, homeless, or female only)

THE PHOENIX CENTRE ENGINES WITH POWONE OVER THE ACK OF 18 AFFECTED BY DRUGS OR ALCOHOL AND IS ATTENDED BY THOSE STILL USING CHAPTICALLY THOSE MAKING THENR FIRST STEPS IN RECOVERY AND SCME THAT ARE ABSTINENT. THE SURVICE ENGINEES THE HOMERESS, PEOPLE WITH, MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, LEARNING DIFFICULTIES. WE WILL ASSO WORK WITH CONCERNED OTHERS.



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**03.** What are the main reasons why your clients take drugs or drink excessively? Please tick all that apply.

If you work with more than one client group or you feel that there are other reasons as to why your clients take drugs or drink excessively, please comment in the box below.

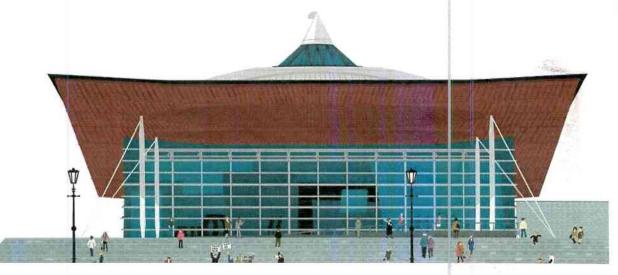
Peer p	oressure
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- A way to deal with stress
- Client(s) already substance reliant
- ✓ Mental health
- ☑ Boost confidence
- Relieve social anxiety
- Environmental factors (for example excessive drinking and/or drugs normalised in the home/community)
- ☑ Relationship problems
- ☐ Financial concerns
- ☑ Self-medication
- Escapism
- Other (please comment)

## Comments

FOR MANY PEOPLE EXCERCIVE DRINKING IS A SOCIAL BORM, PARTICULARLY AT WEEKENDS OR WHEN THERE ARE MASOR EVENTS (SPORTING, CONCERT) ETC) WHERE EXCERCIVE DRINKING IS OFTEN EXPECTED BY PEER GROUPS.

IN MORE RETENT YEARS BENEFIT SANCTIONS, ARE PLANTING & CREATER PART AS WELL AS HOMELUSCNESS.



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**04.** Are there certain groups of people who are more likely to be affected by drugs and excessive drinking? If so, which groups might they be?

ALTHOUGH THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE F. PARTICULAR SOCIAL DEMOGRAPHIC THAT IS AFFERTED MANY OF THOSE THAT ATTEND THE PHOENIX CENTRE ARE UNEMPLOYED. THIS MAN BE DUE TO OPENING TIMES OF CERLICES

**05.** Does a particular stage of your clients' lives influence their likelihood of taking drugs or drinking excessively? If so, what stage might that be? (i.e. age, relationship breakdown, unemployment etc.)

MANY CLIENTS STARTED TAKING SUBSTANCES

RECREPATIONALLY BUT THERR USE CRADUALLY

INCREASED UNTIL IT BECAME PROBLEMATIC,

CHATASPHLOPHIC LIFE EVENTS, (ACTIOSCH IN

SOME CIRCUMSTANCES MAY HAVE BEEN THE

INITIAL REASON) OFTEN EXCACERBATE AN EXCHING

SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROBLEM, IT IS ACCO OFTEN

CH CAUSE FOR RELAPSET.



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WORKING IN THE SOUTH WALES VALLEY!

GEOGRAPHY AND TRANSPORT LINKS ARE A

MASOR BARRER.

ALSO LACK OF HOUSING (HOSTER ACCOMPATION.

07. What barriers exist for services when trying to access support for client(s)?

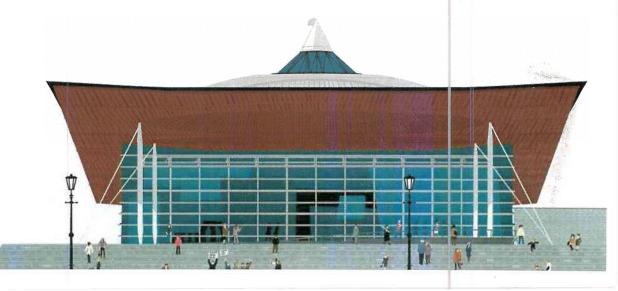
HOUSING AND LACK OF HOSTER PROJUCION IN THE CAERPHILLY BORDOUGH.

Some server user (FACL THROUGH THE NOTE DUE TO HAVING COMPLET NOWDS WHICH DON'T FIT THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ONE PERSON WITH SOME SERVICES NOT WANTING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

THIS IS USUALLY IF THERE IS A COEXISTING TOWNTHE HEACH (SUBSTANCE MISUSE ISSUE SOMETIMES THE LACK OF A SUGLE CARE COORDINATOR CAN BE A CONCERN,

**08**. What do you consider to be barriers for staff and frontline services in working with your client group(s), or substance misuse generally?

MIGH CASE LEADS.
TRYING TO ENGAGE CLIENTS FROM RUCKE AREAT.,
LACK OF INFORMATION PARTICULARLY REGIARDING
N PSIS.



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09 Where do you think efforts should be targeted to address the issue of alcohol and substance misuse in Wales? MANY TO MENTION 1 0000 CIKE TO SEO Too RESIDENTIAL SETURCES (SUPPORTED HOUSEDY Molo NEX SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS. OPEN ACCESS (DROP IN PROVISION W PARA NOUTH QUEUT. EDUCATION. 10 In which local authority area do you work? If you work outside of Wales, please write your local authority area below. CAERPHILLY, a 116 Merthyr Tydfil Blaenau Gwent PER PER Bridgend Monmouthshire . Caerphilly П Neath Port Talbot Newport Pembrokeshire Carmarthenshire Powys Ceredigion His age of the last Rhondda Cynon Taf Conwy Swansea Denbighshire Torfaen Flintshire Gwynedd Vale of Glamorgan Isle of Anglesey Wrexham If you would like to be kept updated about the progress of the Committee's inquiry into alcohol and substance misuse in Wales, please leave your name and e-mail address below: DIVA G HANTALA Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru National Assembly for