

00:02 My partner Jake was an artist, a poet, a dancer, a writer, a nursery nurse and soon and soon to be a fully qualified arts psychotherapist.

00:11 He loved to make people laugh

00:15 [From recording] *laughter*

00:23 He told me when we first met that he had started to abuse alcohol and other drugs at a young age.

00:30 He told me that as a teenager he'd been caught, named and shamed in his local paper.

00:36 Being labelled a hopeless 'druggie' helped send him further into substance abuse.

00:40 Despite being exceptionally bright Jake's teenage dabbles culminated in a crack and heroin habit.

00:47 The death of his brother Roland from a heroin overdose and a long stint in residential rehab finally gave him the strength to stay away from all drugs and when I met him he was five years clean.

00:59 But the cravings never stopped and he would bury them in exercise

01:03 He completed long runs and triathlons, often dressed in costume for charities

01:08 [Jake's partner, Cara, on from recording] Well done

01:09 [Jake] Yeah, I'm gonna recover in the next hour or two I'll be fine. People with MS don't have the same luxuries as I do.

01:18 [Jake] That's why I'm doing this

01:23 When our son was three months old Jake was falsely accused of a crime he didn't commit.

01:29 The police investigation which followed re-awoke all his teenage feelings of fear, shame and judgement

01:35 [From recording] *Baby laughter*

01:39 [Jake] Come on, this way this way

01:44 And where his teenage feelings came so followed his teenage habits.

01:48 Five months later Jake relapsed

01:51 Though he had no connections where we lived he was able to obtain heroin and crack in just over an hour

01:58 While the legal status of Jake's drugs of choice did not deter his use or his ability to obtain them they did put us all at an even greater risk than simply the use of the drugs alone

02:12 Risks from interacting with dealers who would make repeated sales calls to chase the next purchase

02:18 Risks he would use impure substances and wouldn't know the strength of what he was taking and the risk of a fine or imprisonment if caught

02:29 Jake was a high-functioning heroin user good at disguising his habit from the world

02:36 I thought he'd recovered from his first relapse in 2013

02:40 But in April 2014 he relapsed again and this time it killed him

02:47 Jake was a beautiful soul

02:49 He was a fantastic father

02:51 He was kind and generous

02:52 He was a hard worker but he could never shake the sense of shame about his past

02:59 I believe that if Jake's drug use could have been treated as the medical issue it was rather than the criminal issue it wasn't he would still be alive today

03:08 Father partner brother uncle son grandson friend and colleague

03:17 The world is not a better place for the loss of Jake Coe

03:21 If there's a chance my son will want to experiment with drugs other than alcohol I want him to be able to do it safely

03:28 I don't want his entire future to be ruined for the sake of a silly mistake or even a series of them

03:34 I'd rather he went to a licensed supplier than to a street dealer who could be selling him literally anything

03:40 I'd rather those drugs were properly researched and manufactured

03:44 I'd rather he had access to truthful and unbiased information about what exactly he was doing to himself

(Sign reads: Jacob Adam Coe 1976 – 2014 Beloved son, brother, uncle, partner of Cara & father of Reuben "If you listen you can hear the call to intuition, rising from the belly of the earth.")

03:50 He has already paid too heavy a price of drug policies hinged on 'Just say no'

03:57 Our drug policies have failed

03:59 They do more harm than good

04:02 That's why I am working with Anyone's Child

04:04 The campaign to get drugs under control and help protect all of our children

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