

## **Thematic CND Intersessionals – demand reduction**

*Operational recommendations on Demand reduction and related measures, including prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues*

### **Treatment**

Chair,

Recovery is at the heart of the UK's approach to drug treatment. More people are recovering from their dependency now than in 2009/10, and the average waiting time to access treatment is just three days. The number of heroin and crack cocaine users in England has fallen to 294,000. This continues the declining trend in users since 2008/09.

The United Kingdom promotes evidence-based treatment through its Guidelines on the Clinical Management of Drug Misuse and Dependence, which are drawn up by expert clinicians working in the field.

To achieve lasting recovery, support for dependent drug users must move beyond clinical measures to tackle dependence. Secure housing, fulfilling employment and strong social networks are some of the surest routes to lasting recovery. The UK integrates these services with existing treatment measures, including for drug users being released from prison.

Measures such as opioid substitution treatment, clean needle exchange, distributing foil to injecting drug users which facilitates the smoking of drugs to reduce injecting, and distributing naloxone to counter opioid overdoses protect individuals from many risks associated with drug use. These tools should be used as part of structured efforts to get individuals into treatment and towards recovery.

This package of measures to reduce the risks associated with drug use, as set out in the joint WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS technical guidance, are a vital part of the global work to address HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases, and the UK welcomes the reference to this guidance in the Outcome Document.

Within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, the international community must work to ensure HIV/AIDS ceases to be the public health emergency it has remained in too many places for too long.

### **Prevention**

Chair,

The UK takes a broad approach to prevention, supporting investment in a range of programmes which have a positive impact on young people and adults, giving them the confidence, resilience and risk management skills to resist drug misuse.

Our approach combines universal action with targeted action for those most at risk or already misusing drugs.

Examples include an online resilience building resource, 'Rise Above', aimed at 11- to 16-year-olds, which provides resources to help develop skills to make positive choices for their health, including avoiding drug use;

FRANK, the UK's drugs information and advice service, continues to be updated to reflect new and emerging patterns of drug use and evolves to remain in line with young people's media habits.

Public Health England has developed its role in supporting local areas, launching toolkits to support local areas' responses on specific issues around new psychoactive substances and other drug groups.

The Government has also invested in resources to support schools. For example, Mentor UK, an NGO, runs the Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Information Service which provides practical advice and tools based on the best international evidence, including briefing sheets for teachers.

Chair,

The UK stands ready to share its experience of delivering effective, evidence-based treatment and prevention.