



Drug Consumption Rooms Scrutiny Inquiry - Southampton

Presented by:

Dr Prun Bijral – Medical Director

Date: 18th January 2018



Our goal is to help service users regain control, change the direction of their lives, grow as a person and live life to its full potential.

Is The Time Right For Drug Consumption Rooms?

Policy Developments And Changing Landscapes

Introduction

- Short presentation: How has the policy landscape changed in the past 12 months?
- Discussion: Addressing questions of feasibility.

What are drug consumption rooms?

“Drug consumption rooms are professionally supervised healthcare facilities where drug users can consume drugs in safer conditions.”

What services can DCRs offer?

- A space people can remain under observation after drug consumption
- Intervention in case of emergencies
- Provision of hygienic injecting materials
- Prevention materials including condoms and sharps containers
- Provision of food, showers and clothing to those who live on the streets
- Advice on health and safer drug use
- Counselling and drug treatment
- Access to primary healthcare

European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
(EMMCDA)

Sydney – Uniting MSIC



Hamburg – ‘Staying Alive’ Project



What has been demonstrated?

Drug consumption rooms are found to be effective in:

- Reduce self reported injection risk behaviors, such as syringe sharing
- Reach and stay in contact with highly marginalised target populations
- Reduce drug-related deaths at a city level, where coverage is adequate
- Increase uptake of detoxification and drug dependence treatment, including opioid substitution
- Enhance access to primary care
- Promoting safer injecting conditions
- Decrease public injecting
- Reduce the number of syringes discarded in the vicinity

Systematic literature review on 75 research articles

EMMCDA

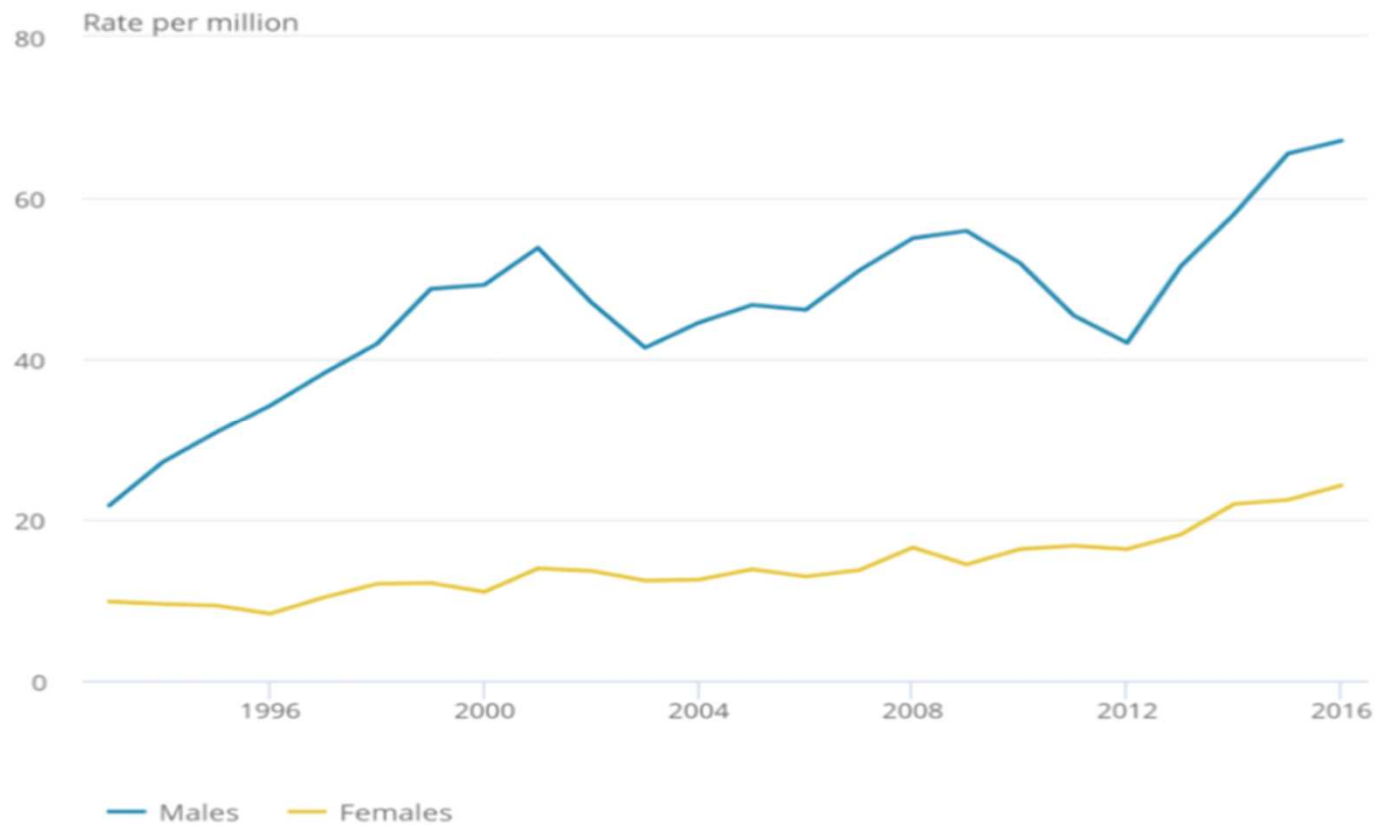
Changing Landscapes and Context

Figure 1: Age-standardised mortality rates for deaths related to drug misuse, by sex, deaths registered in 1993 to 2016

England and Wales

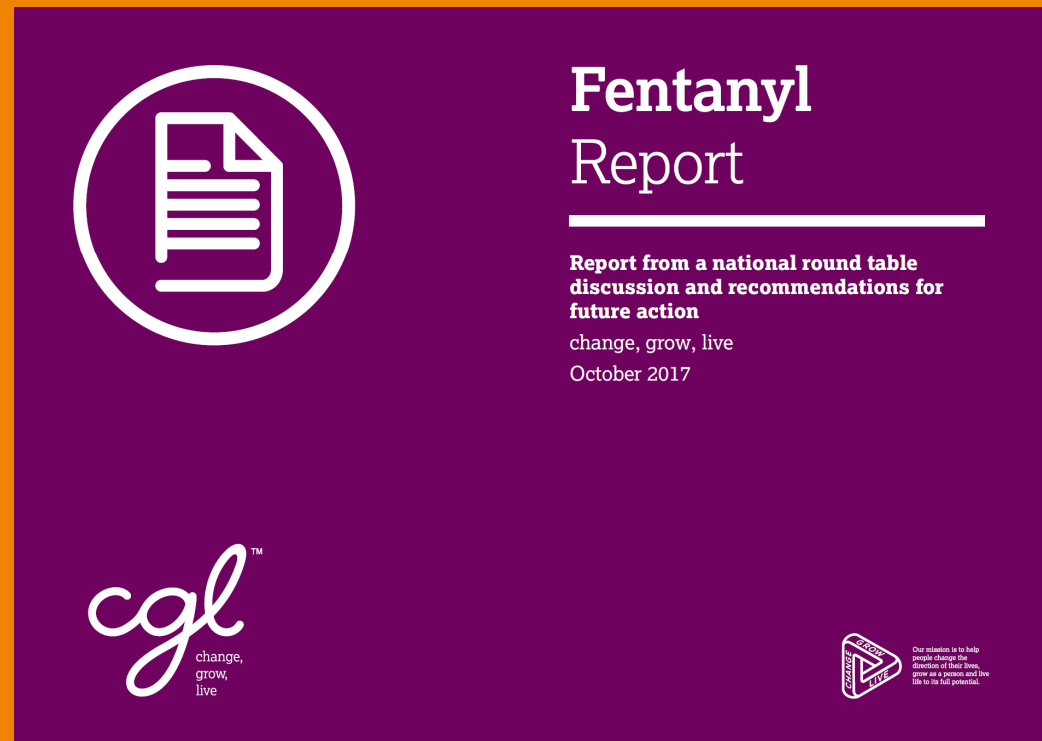
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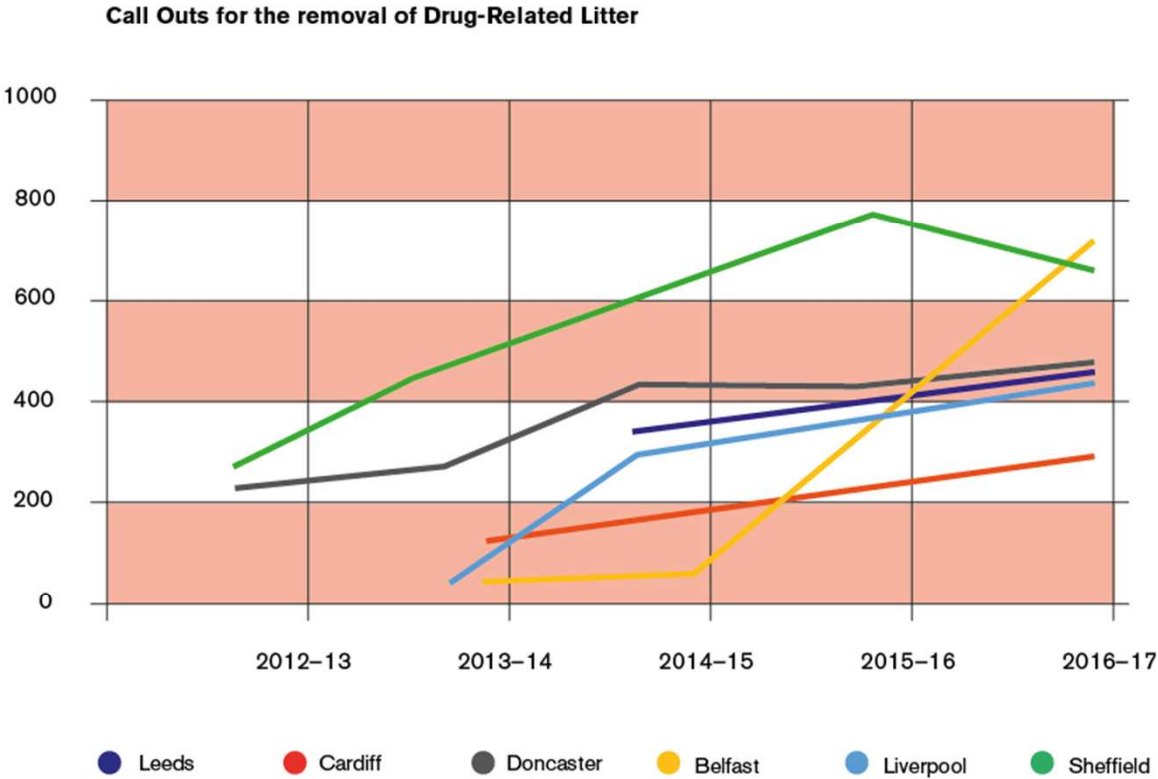


Fentanyl and Related Analogues

- August 2017: NCA reports at least 60 deaths in last 8 months have been linked to fentanyl and related analogues.
- Could escalate an existing crisis of drug related deaths among older opioid users with a range of multiple morbidities.



Rise in call outs for the removal of drug-related litter - FOI



Policy Developments

Self-injection rooms plan for Glasgow drug addicts given green light

31 October 2016 | Glasgow & West Scotland | [f](#) [t](#) [m](#) [e](#) [Share](#)



Discarded needles are one of the problems associated with drug use on the streets, according to ADP

Controversial plans to allow drug users to inject safely under supervision in Glasgow have been approved.

Members of the health board, city council and police agreed the proposals in

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Lord advocate fails to back 'fix room' plan

10 November 2017

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Scotland's top prosecutor has refused to back a controversial plan to set up the UK's first so-called "fix room".

The injecting facility in Glasgow aimed to give drug addicts a safe environment to

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Where did it go wrong for

Call for drug laws devolution to allow 'fix room'

By Reevel Alderson
Home affairs correspondent, BBC Scotland

12 December 2017

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Up to 500 drug users are injecting on Glasgow's streets

The Scottish government is to seek devolution of drugs laws to allow users to take heroin safely under medical supervision.

A "fix room" was planned for Glasgow because of an increase in street injecting

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Where did it go wrong for Carillion?



'A great day for drug policy in Ireland': Supervised injecting centres get go-ahead

The proposed bill passed all stages of the Oireachtas today.

May 10th 2017, 3:41 PM 23,290 Views 95 Comments Share 3755 Tweet Email 6

Updated 4.10pm

SENATORS HAVE APPROVED legislation to set up supervised injecting centres – the latest in a polarising debate on how addiction should be handled in Ireland.

Today, the Seanad passed the Misuse of Drugs (Supervised Injecting Facilities) Bill 2017 after it received Dáil approval in March.

The bill will permit the preparation or possession of controlled substances in supervised premises and exempt certain users from the possession of controlled drugs under certain conditions.

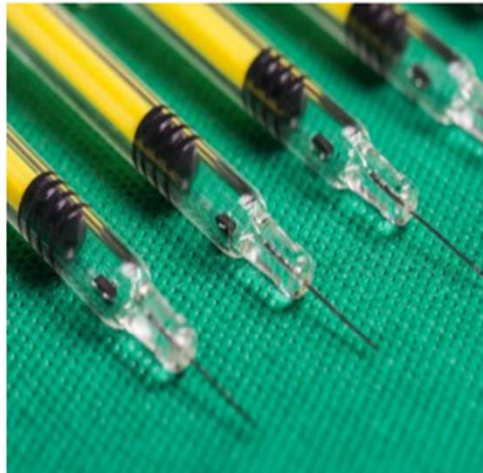


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Monday 15 January 2018

HSE issues tender for first supervised injecting centre for drug addicts



The centre will be run on a pilot basis



Eilish O'Regan
August 25 2017 3:55 PM



The HSE has issued a tender to find an organisation to run the country's first supervised injecting centre for drug addicts in Dublin city centre.

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Dublin supervised injecting centre dealt further blow

Drugs facility would require planning permission, adding layers of complication

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Olivia Kelly

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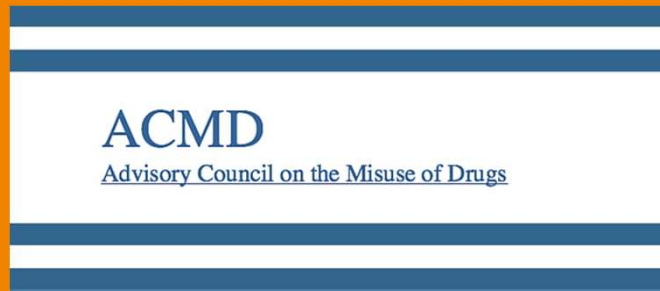
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“Consideration is given – by the governments of each UK country and by local commissioners of drug treatment services – to the potential to reduce DRDs and other harms through the provision of medically-supervised drug consumption clinics in localities with a high concentration of injecting drug use”

December 2016

CGL National Position



“We recognise that entering structured treatment is not always possible, or even desired by some individuals, and these people would be most likely to benefit from Safer Consumption Rooms. While we are not currently looking to establish any facilities of this nature, we would certainly be open to working with any of our commissioners who may wish to consider this initiative.”

Dr. Prun Bijral

(December 2016)

Collective Voice

“In those areas who conclude that drug consumption rooms offer a cost effective route to reducing overall levels of drug related harm including deaths CV members will be keen to work with commissioners to ensure these services are integrated into existing provision in a way which maximises their potential.”

Paul Hayes CEO

August 2017

Government October 2013 position statement

“The Government has no plans to allow drug consumption rooms, which [would break] laws whereby possession of controlled drugs is illegal.”

addressing the problems of public nuisance associated with open drug scenes, and in reducing health risks for drug users. Drug consumption rooms overseas have been controversial and legally problematic, and have been most successful where they have been a locally-led initiative to local problems."

12/07/2017

The Government has no plans to introduce drug consumption rooms. It is for local areas in the UK to consider, with those responsible for law enforcement, how best to deliver services to meet their local population needs.

We are committed to taking action to prevent the harms caused by drug use and our approach remains clear: we must prevent drug use in our communities, help dependent individuals recover, while ensuring our drugs laws are enforced.

8. Central and local governments provide an integrated approach for drug users at risk of DRD, and prioritise funding and access to physical and mental health and social care services (section 5.6.15).

Local areas are best placed to determine the priorities for their funding in response to local need.

Government has been supporting an independent expert working group to update

"some evidence for the effectiveness of drug consumption rooms in addressing the problems of public nuisance associated with open drug scenes, and in reducing health risks for drug users. Drug consumption rooms overseas have been controversial and legally problematic, and have been most successful where they have been a locally-led initiative to local problems."

12/07/2017 5

ACMD Recommendations and Government Response Annex B

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Home Office statement released in November 2017 in response to launch of Volteface report 'Back Yard'

"The UK's approach on drugs remains clear - we must prevent drug use in our communities and support people dependent on drugs through treatment and recovery.

We have no plans to introduce drug consumption rooms.

A range of offences is likely to be committed in the operation of drug consumption rooms.

It is for local police forces to enforce the law in such circumstances and, as with other offences of this type, we would expect them to do so."

Home Office Spokesperson

UN Position (2017 INCB Report)

“For “drug consumption rooms” to be consistent with the conventions, they must aim at effectively reducing the negative consequences of drug abuse and lead to treatment and rehabilitation, without condoning or encouraging drug abuse and drug trafficking”

Possible discussion points

- What do you think are the barriers/ concerns of establishing a DCR
- How do you think these barriers/ concerns could be alleviated, addressed or overcome?

Thanks for your time