



UISCE

Citizen's Assembly
Prevention from Harm

Themes for prevention

- Keep people alive
 - Promote broader wellbeing
 - Improve quality of life
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- 80's –Heroin didn't create the problem it filled a void of poverty and trauma.
 - High unemployment, poor quality housing now we have high employment but more and more people from all classes are struggling to survive and massive issues with housing, so our issues are evolving but are they improving is the question
 - Wider type of drugs available in cities, towns and parish
 - Increase in drugs, people presenting with issues around drugs and mental health, deaths and violence in our communities
 - Many of the area's heroin hit have had regeneration projects, but people from there will tell you things are worse
 - Within that, there has been good work and progress which we must promote and build on, but we also must look at what not's working to get the solutions

Prevention-what and for who?

- Why do people use drugs?
- Seek pleasure- people who seek the most pleasure are those that are struggling, escape from their current reality or in fact survive.
- Prevent people who don't use drugs from using drugs
- Prevent people from moving from recreational drug use to drug dependence
- Prevent people from accessing the system
- Prevent people who are drug dependent from escalated harm

Implement a Social Determinants approach

- Environments we grow up influence our outcomes
- WHO states social determinants are *'non-medical factors that influence health outcomes- Ed attainment, employment status, housing, whether you experience discrimination-created by social policies and norms, economic factors and political systems that shape the living conditions of people's daily lives*
- *We know the Initiation of drug use can be driven by environmental factors- from income inequality, lack of affordable housing, discrimination, poor access to education parental death or separation as well as previous traumatic experiences as a child*
- *We see this play out in the Prisons and care system representation-80+% of people are from particular backgrounds, or in care from neglect*
- *Majority of people get worse in prison*
- *Structural violence, substance use and trauma unaddressed-generational impacts.*
- *Blame individuals for generational outcomes-punish them, then retraumatise them leads to poorer outcomes and a breakdown in our communities*
- *90% and the 10%- employed and educated have massive barriers to progress in life- they are struggling with housing, cost of living, childcare costs, accessing medical care and they are moving from recreational to drug dependence*
- *Decrease generational trauma, promote equitable wellbeing*
- *Prevent the never-ending cycle of people taking drugs to sooth the pain from environmental trauma, or to escape their current reality, and offer better opportunities to people who see selling drugs as an economic opportunity.*

Is it too wicked to solve?

- UISCE submission- based on living experience and backed by research and it provides evidence-based solutions
- Proof of what happens when we have ground up approach that has those most impacted and with the most knowledge driving change
- Why UISCE is successful in what we do, living experience are leading out on everything we do- that process needs to be rolled out through a national framework- it gives people a role and a stake in our society
- Research has been done, evidence has landed, recommendations are here and ready for implementation
- Cross departmental support to implement broader social policies
- Policies create environments, environments create trauma, trauma leads to drug use and drug dependence
- Increase in Funding in the short term- UISCE and other services may not survive if we don't- less services in the long term, we can do that with proper prevention methods
- Our goal is that there is no need for UISCE. People not stigmatised, discriminated and criminalised
- Where PWUD, families and our communities are leading out on a process that heals our communities and builds a more connected society
- End the moral crusade against people who use drugs, support people, don't punish them, empower people to build stronger communities that enable people to thrive



'Shifting away from punitive models is critical to addressing all human rights challenges that arise from or are facilitated by the implementation of punitive drug control policies. Drug control policies should be understood as a way of achieving broader objectives, including the protection of human rights, in particular the right to health, ensuring equality and non-discrimination.'