



**Young People, Substance Use and the Criminal Justice System:
Defining the Challenges and Developing Responses**

Friday, 23 June 2017

Annual Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (DARC) Conference

**Boardroom
Middlesex University
The Burroughs
London, NW4 4BT**

Adolescence and young adulthood are important periods for initiation into substance use (including tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs) and for use to become established patterns of behaviour. During this time, interventions are needed to prevent onset into different forms of substance use, reduce escalation into heavy substance use and intervene to reverse problematic substance use. The groups considered most vulnerable or at risk of developing problematic substance use include young offenders, young people in institutional care, early school leavers and students with social or academic problems and young people living in disadvantaged families or neighbourhoods where multiple risk factors associated with drug use are concentrated. Although vulnerable groups have been highlighted as a priority group in many national drug policies, there is no indication that the provision of bespoke interventions has necessarily increased as a result of this attention. In particular, there has been very little attention paid to young people who are in contact with the criminal justice system in relation to policy and practice.

This conference aims to bring together the perspectives of practitioners, policy makers, and researchers to stimulate critical thinking around developing effective responses for young people with substance use problems who are in contact with the criminal justice system. Key questions which will be tackled during the conference include: How is substance use changing for young people in contact with the criminal justice system? What are the challenges in providing effective responses for this group? Is there a need for bespoke interventions? What does good practice look like in this area? What are alternative ways to work with this group?

The conference is supported by the School of Law, Middlesex University and the journal, *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*.

BOOKING

This conference is FREE but booking is necessary as places are limited.

<https://darcmdx.eventbrite.co.uk>

Programme

9:30-10:00 Registration and Coffee

10:00-10:30 Welcome: Professor Joshua Castellino, Dean, School of Law and Business

Morning session: Defining the Challenges

Chair: Dr Rachel Herring, Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University

10:30-11:30 Professor Joanna Phoenix, Open University, *"We're doing what now?" Youth justice practice and policy changes*

11:30-12:00 Dr Lisa Williams, Manchester University, *The challenges of emerging drug trends and markets: Some implications for young people, mental health, criminal justice and treatment services*

12:00-12:30 Dr David Porteous, Middlesex University: *Trials of Youth: Victimization, Trauma, Offending and Self Medication*

12:30-1:30 LUNCH BREAK

Afternoon session: Responding to the Challenges

Chair: Professor Anthony Goodman, Dept. of Criminology & Sociology, Middlesex University

1:30-2:00 Michael O'Toole, MENTOR UK: *Peer based approaches to substance misuse prevention in custody.*

2:00-2:30 Kieran Lynch, Public Health England: *NPS Toolkit for Prisons - Lessons for Young People and the Criminal Justice System*

2:30-3:00 David Gill, Change, Grow, Live (CGL): *The practitioner's and young people's views*

3:00-3:30 TEA BREAK

Chair: Professor Betsy Thom, Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Middlesex University

3:30-4:00 Niamh Eastwood, Release: *Decriminalisation of drug possession: Reducing recidivism & improving health and social outcomes for young people*

4:00-4:30 Panel Discussion and Closing Remarks