Interprofessional Learning Symposia

Drug and Alcohol Awareness – general knowledge/fact sharing

Pre session material
Did you ever wonder how far back in history you have to go to find evidence of alcohol or drug use – when did the first person get 'drunk' or 'high'? Or who was the first dealer? Or when did 'society' begin to get worried about the use of substances and enact the first law in an attempt to get control of use?

Who and maybe of more interest why do different societies or parts of the world decide which psychoactive substances are okay and others need to be controlled?

Are you clear about why you hold your current opinion, what ever that might be, about alcohol and drug use?

If you were asked to describe or profile a 'typical' drug user or alcoholic – what does that individual look like for you?

Drug and alcohol use is truly an inter professional issue – given that it impacts at the level of the individual, family and community (or society). Many of the UK’s top medical problems can be linked to problematic use of substances e.g. Cancer; heart disease; mental illness. Many of the UK’s social problems also relate to or impact substance use e.g. drink driving, domestic violence, violence in general, stress, child abuse, family discord, poor educational attainment, the list goes on...

This session hopes to engage you in as part of an introductory session to knowledge and facts about problematic substance use. This session is linked with the session on drug and alcohol assessment so you may also wish to attend this as a follow up.

To give you a taster of what we will be covering – why not begin to explore answers to the first set of questions by checking out
INDUP’s (the International Network of People who Use Drugs) longest timeline of events in the history of drugs:  

In the mean time have a go at the quiz below – answers will be given when you join me in the session – see you soon!!!

Dr Carmel Clancy  
Head of Department  
Mental Health, Social Work and Integrative Medicine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug A</th>
<th>What drug is being described?</th>
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| • Used for centuries by different cultures as basic medicine  
• Widespread use in UK in 19th Century by all sections of society  
• Taxed at $12 per pound in 1890  
• Used widely in medicine today  
• Media image of an evil substance | ? |

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<th>Drug B</th>
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| • First used circa 6400BC  
• First legislation passed in 1327  
• Manufacture by any citizen allowed in 1688  
• Law passed in Connecticut forbidding no more than 1/2 hours use at any one time  
• Law passed in Virginia to prevent Ministers from inciting riot as a result of the effects of this drug  
• Widely available drug today | ? |

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| • Initially used as a medicine, prescribed to remedy the following ailments: toothache, flatulence, running sores, heavy cough, labour pains and headache  
• The first person seen using this drug in Portugal was deemed by the clergy to be "possessed" and promptly spent several years in jail  
• Adulteration was a problem with this drug, so much so that the Mississippi Supreme Court rule  
• "We can imagine no reason why, with ordinary care, human toes could be left out of ........, and if toes are found in ........, it seems to us that somebody has been very careless.”  
• Widely available drug today | ? |

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<th>Drug D</th>
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| • Used in 1937 to treat hyperactive children  
• 150 million doses used by UK and USA during World War II  
• Used by astronaut Gordon Cooper in 1969 to regain manual control of his space capsule | ? |