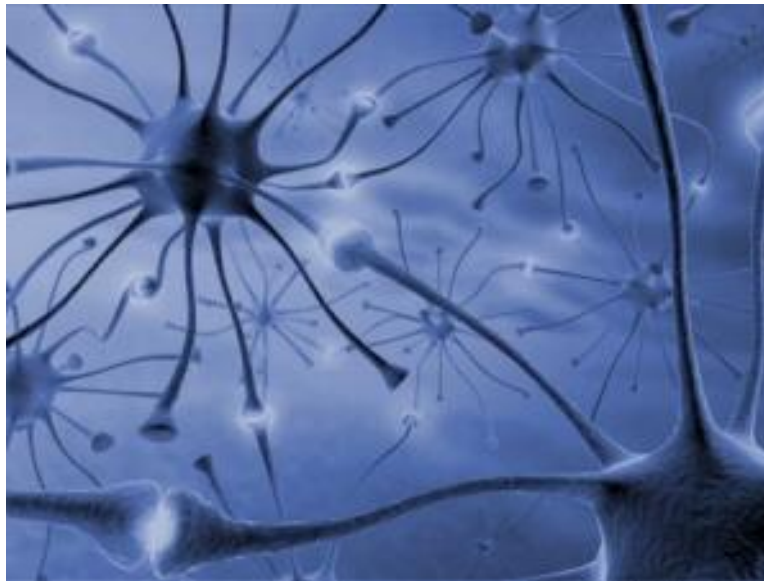




SURF
Scotland's Regeneration Forum

SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice



Drug abuse in Communities: Other Consequences

An Alliance for Action Shared Learning Session

**Beyond the individual:
The impact of drug abuse on communities.**

10.15am–2pm,
Wednesday, November 14th, 2018
Kinning Park Complex, Glasgow G41 1AQ

“Living alongside druggies and drug dealers takes the reality of anti-social neighbours to a whole new level of living in Hell.”

(Resident, Glasgow, 2018)

“High levels of drug use in a community are linked to unsafe communities because of the associated social problems”

(Drugs of Dependence: The Role of Medical Professionals
BMA Board of Science London, p.59, British Medical Association, 2013)

Some Context

- The dual purpose of SURF’s ‘Alliance for Action’ programme is:
 - to strengthen resilience and practical outcomes in the programme’s case study communities;
 - to enhance wider policy and resource considerations for supporting community regeneration in the continuing recessionary context.
- The themes for the Alliance Shared Learning sessions are selected on the basis of issues raised in the course of SURF’s work in Alliance communities. Previous themes at Shared Learning Sessions have included benefits sanctions, heritage, mental health, nutrition and creativity
- **This event’s focus on *Drug abuse in Communities: the Other Consequences* is in response to community concerns** about those aspects of drug abuse which they feel are destructive and widespread, but rarely acknowledged.
- To bring attention to the wider community is **not to negate the difficulties of and often tragic consequences for individual users and their immediate families**. The effort of public and third sector agencies to support them is widely recognised and publicised and the failure of society to address factors which may provoke drug misuse is acknowledged. For the purposes of this session, however, the focus will be on the **much less frequently acknowledged repercussions for communities living alongside drug abusers and dealers** as their neighbours.
- Families and communities in areas where drug users and their dealers are a regular part of the landscape face **daily challenges to their own safety and peace of mind**, ranging from ‘anti-social’ behaviour to serious criminal activity. These can include:
 - Back courts and closes, playgrounds and parks being littered with potentially dangerous drugs ephemera
 - Frequent and anti-social visitors to neighbouring homes where drugs are available
 - Drug users under the influence in public exhibiting disturbing and upsetting behaviour

- Wide-ranging criminal behaviour, such as theft and burglary, associated with drug users seeking to fund their habit and with dealers who of necessity have criminal associates, where threatening and violent behaviour may be commonplace.
- Some of those living in communities where drug abuse is rife, additionally claim that emergency services do not respond to calls for help as quickly and effectively as they do to reports of drug abuse in more affluent areas.
- The broader consequences include the financial cost to social landlords who have to allocate resources, to deal with the impact of drug use and dealers on their tenants.

The purpose of this event

- To identify and promote the experience of those living and working in Alliance for Action communities where the presence of drug abusers and dealers is undermining health, wellbeing, the safety of the broader community and efforts towards practical regeneration efforts.
- To provide a safe and constructive context for an honest conversation about the destructive nature of drug abuse on the wider population.
- To explore collaboration across:
 - People and organisations from Alliance for Action areas who have knowledge and experience in this area.
 - Representatives of relevant local and national support bodies.
 - Relevant policy influencers and funders
- To facilitate shared learning and enhance cross sector understanding and support for ways of mitigating the impact of living alongside drug abusers and dealers

Programme

09.45 - 13.45

DRAFT ... SPEAKERS AND TIMINGS TBC

Anticipated Outcomes

- Shared understanding and networks;
- Practical proposals for further cooperation on connections, resources and policy.
- An accessible report for policy information and general circulation.

Date and Venue



Wednesday, 14th
November, 2018.

9.45 am gathering
for 10.15 am start.

Venue:
Kinning Park
Complex,
40 Cornwall St,
Glasgow,
G41 1AQ

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