

Barnsley Needle Exchange

GETTING CLEAN NEEDLES AND SYRINGES IN THE BARNLSLEY AREA

WHAT TO DO

WHERE TO GET YOUR WORKS

LONDON NEEDLE EXCHANGE

LIFELINE PUBLICATIONS PRESENT

TOUGH SHIT THOMAS

© LIFE LINE IN NINEETS (AS)

"GET DOWN THAT NEEDLE EXCHANGE"

There was also a 'sharpness' to the style of other imagery. The use of visual metaphors for 'sharps' appears from the Barnsley hedgehog (Barnsley Needle Exchange) to the jagged edges of the illustration used by The Terrence Higgins Trust ('Reducing The Risk', THT 1992), and more subtly in the scratchy pen and ink comic book style of Lifeline's leaflets ('Get Down That Needle Exchange', 1993).

Leaflets specifically dealing with HIV and safer injecting produced and distributed by dedicated drug support services at this time tended to use simple layouts, bold typography, and a predominance of red and black. The emphasis was on communicating clear instructions about cleaning or disposing of needles. There was no need to embellish or 'sell' messages, as the information was often placed directly in the hands of users who were known to agencies. These contact points could also provided opportunities for talking to drug users about sexual health and the distribution of condoms, especially to those who might be using sex to fund their drug use. Examples of leaflets shown here include: 'AIDS. How Drug Users Can Avoid It' SCODA (Standing Conference On Drug Abuse); 'How to enjoy sex, take drugs and not get HIV/AIDS' HOT (Healthy Options Team, Tower Hamlets); 'The User's Guide, Safer Drug Use' the Community Drug Project (London).

AIDS. HOW DRUG USERS CAN AVOID IT.

WHY YOU RISK AIDS IF YOU'RE A DRUG USER.

AIDS isn't just spread by having sex, it's also spread by blood.

This means that any blood from an AIDS infected person that finds its way into your bloodstream could infect you and cause AIDS.

Just a scratch, it could find its way into your bloodstream if you're a drug user, by sharing a syringe or works with someone already infected.

That person may not know they have been infected with the AIDS virus.

(The AIDS infection may be carried by people who don't ever develop AIDS itself.)

And they certainly don't have to be gay.

So anyone who shares a needle or works with (even if only once), could be a carrier and they could give you AIDS.

It makes sense, therefore, to do everything you can to avoid this deadly disease.

The safest course is to give no drugs at all, but we realise this isn't always possible.

So later in this leaflet you'll find some practical advice for your own protection.

HOW, though, what exactly is AIDS?

AIDS. THE FACTS, NOT THE FICTION.

AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

It is deadly, and it is a very unpleasant way to die.

Although AIDS has probably been around for many years, the disease was first diagnosed in 1981 among gay men.

Since then the disease has spread worldwide, and now affects many other people around the world, particularly drug users who do or have injected drugs.

There is no known effective treatment for AIDS, but at least the cause has now been discovered.

It is a virus (HIV) very similar to one which causes some cancers, but it prevents your body fighting off, in this case, dangerous infections and diseases.

Eventually, the many resources available towards the understanding of AIDS hope to find a cure, or at least a vaccine.

But at the moment AIDS is still incurable and very deadly.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S FRIGHTENING, DON'T PANIC.

In recent years a number of non-sensational articles have been written about AIDS and how you can catch it.

But although AIDS is highly infectious in certain circumstances, there is no need for anyone to become infected.

The next, as some panic-stricken people think, catch it by being near someone with AIDS.

Or touching them. Or eating food prepared by them, or even being with them.

Indeed, AIDS is really a very different disease to catch if you take just a few simple precautions.

HOW TO AVOID AIDS.

If you're a drug user, the simple answer is to give no drugs because you might be tempted to inject.

But we realise this may not be something you're prepared or able to do at the moment.

So at least consider giving up injecting drugs.

This would immediately cut down the risk to you.

If you don't feel able to stop injecting at least make sure you never share a needle, syringe, or other injection equipment.

There is no doubt that dirty needles can and do spread AIDS.

So always make sure yours are clean and never share them.

This means using only your own set, or if you have to share a needle or syringe, taking precautions.

Wash the syringe to pieces, then either boil all the pieces and needle you are going to share for at least 30 minutes or soak all the pieces and the needle in some alcohol (medical spirit) for 30 minutes or soak all the pieces and the needle in diluted bleach, e.g. Domestos (one part bleach to nine parts water) for 30 minutes.

Don't use disinfectants like Dettol - they don't kill the virus.

Finally, clean all the pieces and the needle with a toothbrush under running water to get rid of all the alcohol and bleach.

You should also observe any simple precautions.

HOW TO ENJOY SEX, TAKE DRUGS AND NOT GET HIV/AIDS.

The User's Guide

SAFER DRUG USE

WHY SHARE AIDS?

HOW TO GET RID OF YOUR WORKS SAFELY.

1. Remove the plunger.
2. Drop the needle into the barrel with the needle pointing upwards.
3. Replace the plunger.
4. Push the plunger right in.

Keep your works in a secure container.

Always return your used needles and syringes to a Chemist displaying the NEEDLEX symbol.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

ALL THESE SERVICES ARE STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Drugs Projects.

Waltham Drug Problems Centre, Dundee: 0382 25083

The Leith Community Drug Project, Edinburgh: 011 551 5250

West File Support Group, Dunfermline 712726

File AIDS Clinics.

Tel: Edinburgh 712472, Ext: 280

File STD Clinics.

Tel: Dunfermline 73777, Ext: 3030

Tel: Kirkcaldy 2685, Ext: 3730

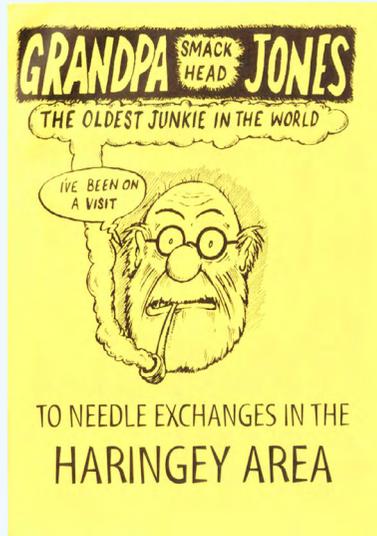
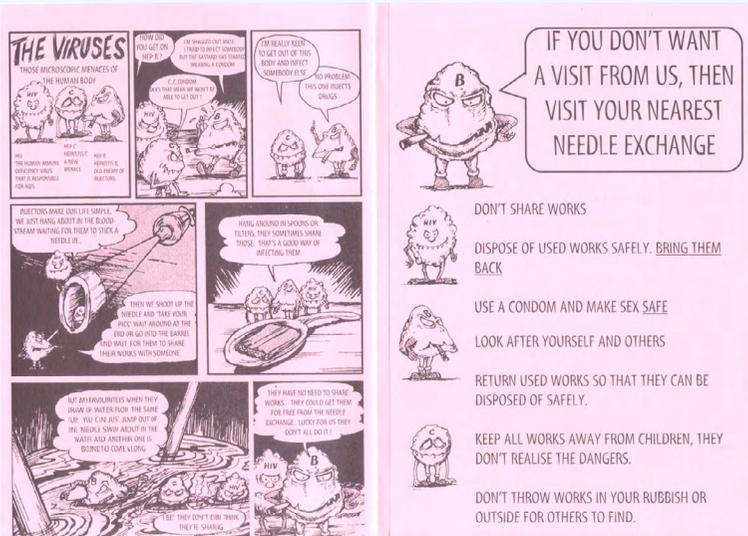
You can make an appointment for STD/AIDS Clinics without seeing your own Doctor first.

In File, you can obtain clean needles and syringes from Chemists, where you see this sign.

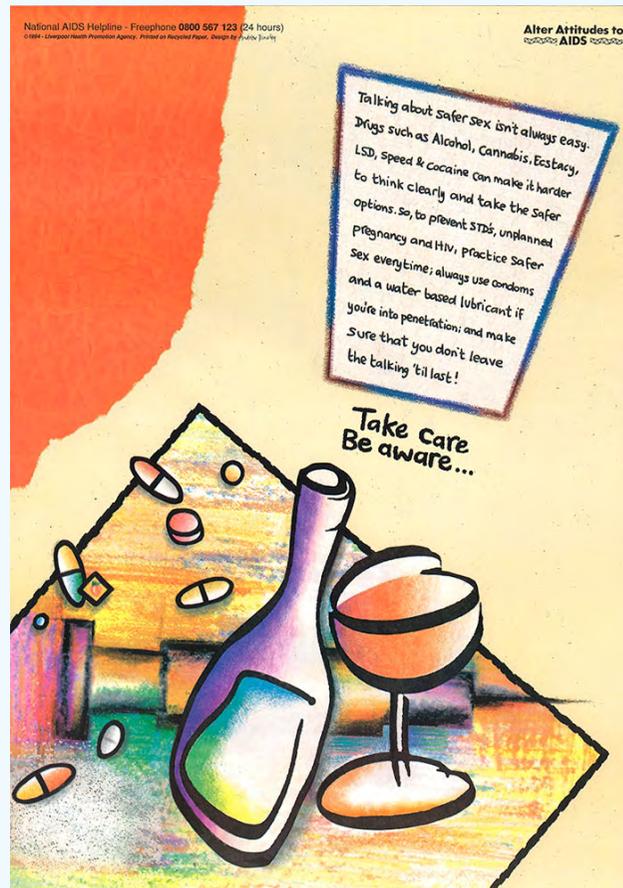
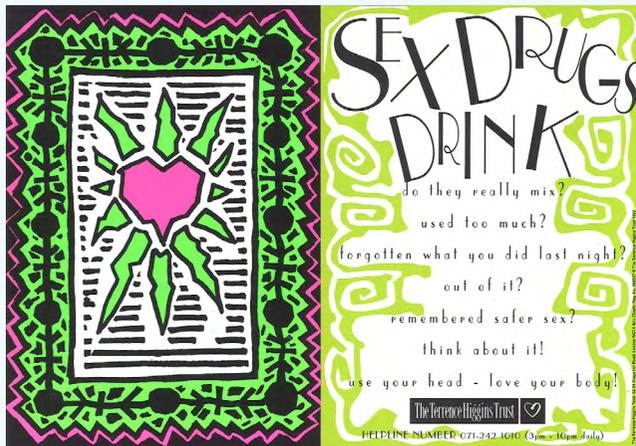
Issued by File Health Board in association with The Scottish Health Education Group

Needle Exchanges

Although awareness about HIV/AIDS and transmission methods could be publicised via mass media advertising campaigns, it was less likely that abstinence messages would result in significant behaviour change for injecting drug users who were engaging in high risk, illegal behaviour. Consequently, there were very few posters aimed at this particular audience and the design of small media tended to be more restrained and locally focused than for safer sex messages. Needle exchanges provided the means for many to reduce their HIV risk behavior and promoting these facilities and their location was a more successful strategy. Although an early File Health Board leaflet indicates the use of a 'Needlex' symbol by local chemist shops ('Why Share AIDS?'), the most prevalent needle exchange logo, red and green arrows on a yellow background, is still in use in the UK today ('Needle Exchanges' Manchester AIDS Forum 1994). Whilst the style of arrow is quite pointed, this symbol does not directly depict syringes or incorporate any text. It is a fairly anonymous piece of information graphics that would probably not be familiar to most people, unless they required the service it signifies. Needle exchanges are not just used by illegal drug users, but the iconography remains discreet and visually anonymous.



Few of the drug harm reduction agencies established in the seventies had felt the need to develop a strong visual 'brand'. Because their clients were often marginalised by society and the idea of providing support and help for an illegal activity was not politically popular, design values were often not a high priority. An exception was the Manchester based charity, Lifeline (established 1971), which put out a number of leaflets and posters with a distinctive comic book style. The uncredited but accomplished illustrations enabled Lifeline to communicate in a credible and user-friendly way. The tone is non-judgemental and uses the humour of familiar situations that its audience can identify with in order to get across messages of harm reduction. The strength of the imagery and use of an underground zine style meant that the production values could remain low cost, printing black on to cheap coloured paper stock at either A4 or half A3, folded to A5. There is evidence that these resources were distributed by a number of different organisations. A blank panel on the back for the addition of local information was often incorporated into the design, or the same materials were adapted and rebranded ('The Viruses', 'Grandpa Smack Head Jones', the Drug Advisory Service Haringey).



By the mid nineties, messages started to emerge from HIV organisations about other types of drug use, alcohol and the influence of these on sexual behaviour. THT reworked its earlier leaflet illustration for a postcard format using fluorescent colours against a black background, suggestive of rave culture flyers (1992). On the reverse side, the viewer is prompted by a series of questions to think about potentially reckless party behaviour and the potential for unsafe sex. Throughout the nineties, Liverpool Health Promotion Unit produced a series of posters for its 'Alter Attitudes to AIDS' campaign based around colourful illustrations by Andrew Dineley. The 1994 poster 'Take Care, Be Aware' lists a number of recreational drugs, including alcohol, which may make it "harder to think clearly and take the safer options". Although the image includes a syringe, it is very much in the background and not as noticeable as the pills, wine bottle and glass that are heavily outlined in black. These types of campaigns were not concerned with the risks of injecting HIV, but with the unsafe sex that could result from impaired judgement whilst taking drugs or being intoxicated.

There were no 'official' government messages about drug use and HIV specifically aimed at gay men. But gay men's organisations recognised that among the complex lifestyle issues around risk behaviour and HIV, alcohol and drug use often played a role.



Power -Pak

RUSH
LIQUID INCENSE®
CONT. 9ml

WARNING: MAY BE FATAL IF SWALLOWED. SKIN IRRITANT AND SEVERE EYE IRRITANT. HIGHLY FLAMMABLE.

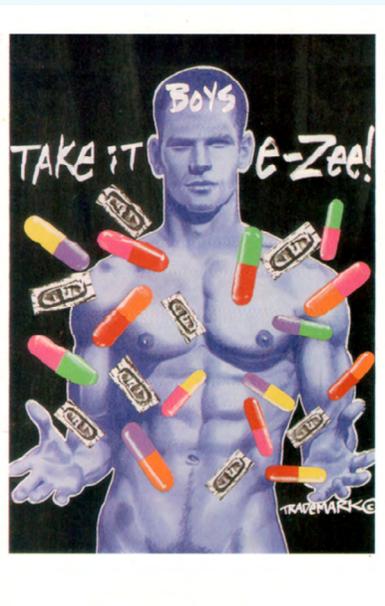
POPPERS

Some guys use them for a quick buzz on the dance floor or to try to enhance the effects of other drugs. Others use them to relax their arse muscles when being fucked or to heighten the effect when they come.

Here's what you need to know before you take that snort of Alkyl Nitrates!

- You never know what the effect may be, so combining poppers with other drugs can be dangerous.
- Don't swallow them! - it could be lethal.
- Some guys get headaches and nausea after use. Occasional rashes may develop round the nose and mouth but clear up after you stop using them.
- Highly flammable so keep away from cigs, joint, candles etc. If spilled on the skin then wash off immediately.
- There is no concrete evidence to link poppers and AIDS but they have been shown to weaken the immune system.
- Poppers enlarge the blood vessels in the arse making bleeding and possible HIV infection more likely, so if you're fucking, always use a latex condom and water-based lube.
- The possession and use of poppers is not currently illegal.

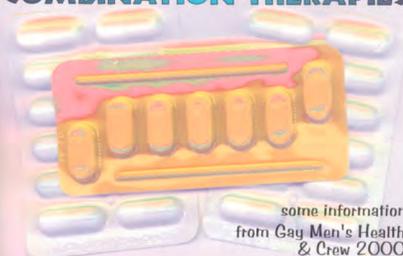
For further information contact PHACE West on 0141-332 3838
Produced by The Gay Men's Proj. - 1992 West, 48 Soho Street Glasgow G2 3JG.



Boys
TAKE IT E-zee!

TRADEMARK

COMBINATION THERAPIES



some information from Gay Men's Health & Crew 2000

does **1 + 1 = 3** ?

Ritonavir & other protease inhibitors used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS have been associated with severe reactions to Ecstasy, Speed & other stimulants

The effects of mixing any drugs, medicines & alcohol can be hard to predict but they often exaggerate each other's effects, sometimes even causing overdose and death. Using 2 similar drugs together can mean you'll get 3 - 5 times the effect. One plus one can equal three.

Recent press reports have claimed that a man collapsed and died in October last year after taking only 2 Ec. He had just reached full dose on his course of ritonavir. The amount of MDMA found in his blood would normally be expected from taking over 20 Ec. Though not scientifically proven, it is possible that the ritonavir may have exaggerated the effects of the Ec. The drug's manufacturer has recognised that ritonavir does have this effect with speed and is currently researching how it might affect someone taking Ec.

If you are using protease inhibitors like ritonavir we would advise being very careful taking stimulants like Ec & speed. The best advice is probably to avoid using Ec altogether until we know more...

If you want any further info contact Crew 2000 on 0131 220 3404 or Gay Men's Health on 0131 558 9444.

set the scene

an information evening for HIV positive gay men wanting to take control in their lifestyles
HIV and Combination therapy, Steroids and testosterone replacement therapies, Recreational drugs, and how to reduce the risks...

sex

drugs

hardbodies

On Monday 18th February: 6pm till 9pm
Phone James on 020 7738 3712 for more information

do you have questions about combination therapy, recreational drugs, steroids? get the answers to your questions from Dr Mike, Yorkie, Dr Pierre Boudoux & Dr Perry Halliwell

part of

Gay Men's Health & Crew

DO YOU FIND IT HARDER TO STICK TO SAFER SEX WHEN YOU'RE OUT OF IT?

Do you worry about how much you go clubbing and why?
Is taking risks part of the whole experience?
Do you want this to change?

This day is a chance to discuss with other gay men the whys and wherefores of taking recreational drugs, and work through strategies for making your weekends safer.

SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, 12 noon at The Edge, 11 Soho Square, London W1.

For more information or to book a place on this or our other workshops call James on 0171-738 6872.
GMFA workshops are run for gay men by gay men.

Unit 42, The Farallan Centre, 48 HIVE ROAD LONDON SW2 8JL 071 738 8872. gmfa@gmhfa.com.uk <http://www.gmfaworkshop.com> GM - A



Yet another drug fucked weekend

Too many people seem to think that my HIV drugs give me a 'normal' life. Don't believe it. A combo therapy without side effects is as rare as a 10" dick.

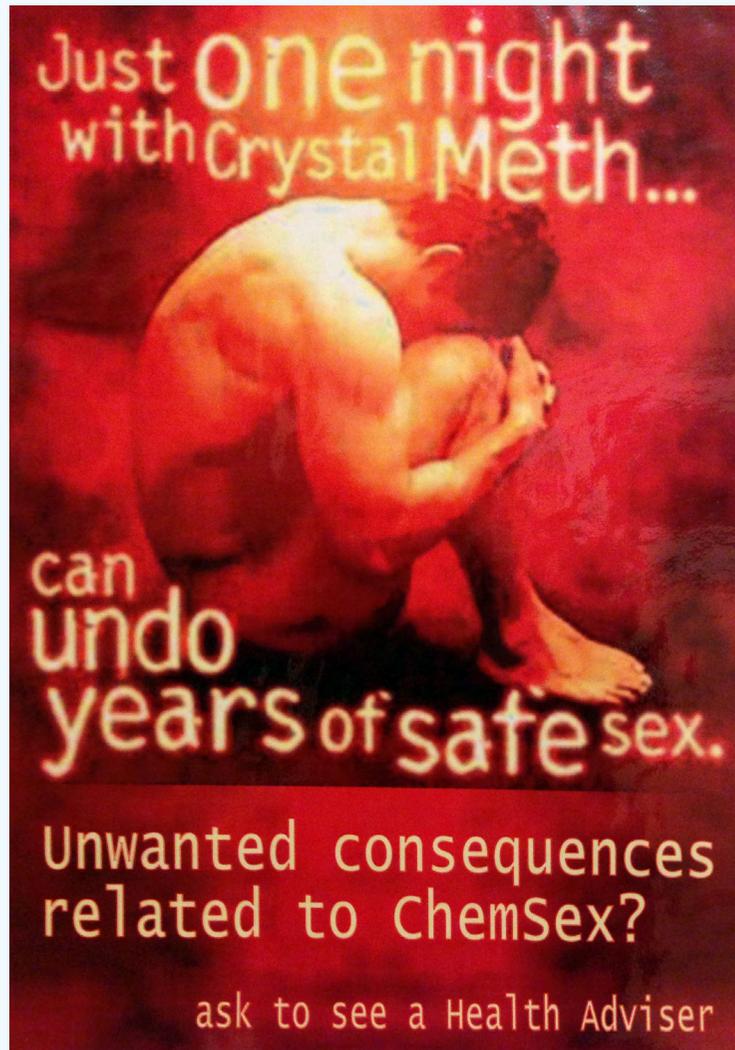
thinkaboutbeingHIV+

GMFA campaigns & events are designed, planned and executed by positive, negative and untested volunteers. Involvement by GMFA, either in person or via email, is at The Farallan Centre, 48 HIVE ROAD, LONDON, SW2 8JL. 071 738 8872. www.gmfaworkshop.com | london@gmfaworkshop.com | Registered charity no. 1039584

Graphic ephemera for this audience visually echoed the dominant club culture of the time, but it was not always clear if there was a direct link between the drugs themselves and HIV or just the probability of unsafe sex as the result of a drug-fuelled night. The Phace West Gay Men's Project (Glasgow) produced a die-cut flyer about poppers that suggested their use may weaken the immune system and make anal bleeding more probable, increasing the risk of HIV transmission.

In the mid nineties, the Brighton-based Drug Advice and Information Service (DAIS) with Fighting AIDS Brighton (FAB) published a postcard targeting gay men who took ecstasy, illustrated by the well-known graphic artist, TradeMark ('Boys, Take It E-zee!'). The messages on the back of the card varied, but mainly consisted of advice about using the drug, such as how to avoid dehydration, followed by a reminder to use condoms for sex. The image became a popular pin-up and was reproduced in poster form by Lothian Gay Men's Health and also used by Gay Men's Health Scotland and Hackney Drugs Prevention Team. It was more common for charities to share successful imagery at this time. Small regional organisations often had difficulty commissioning photography and illustrations on a low budget and their services were not seen to be in direct competition with each other, but united by a common cause.

After the widespread introduction of antiretroviral therapies as treatment for HIV in the mid nineties, there was some concern about the effects of illicit recreational drugs taken by HIV positive gay men on combination therapy. The postcard 'Combination Therapies' (1997) produced by Gay Men's Health (Lothian) and Crew 2000 was made in direct response to a recent case where a possible reaction of ecstasy with ritonavir resulted in the death of a local man. Other agencies used the subject of treatment as a way of directly engaging HIV positive men to discuss all aspects of drug use (including steroids) through workshops and advice sessions. This followed an increasing trend in health promotion of addressing complex behaviours and harm reduction through peer-to-peer and group work ('Do you find it harder to stick to safer sex when you're out of it?' GMFA, 1997 and 'Set the Scene' London Gay Men's HIV Prevention Partnership, 2002). In the adverts promoting such events, it is not always clear whether the illustrations represent the medical drug regime or the recreational one. In the GMFA advert, 'Yet Another Drug Fucked Weekend' (2001) this ambiguity is used deliberately to convey the message that combination therapy comes with its own set of side effects.



With the increase in popularity of drugs such as GHB, mephedrone and especially crystal methamphetamine among gay men in the UK throughout the last decade, there is a concern about how these so-called 'chemsex' drugs are being used to fuel sexual sessions that can include a number of risk-taking behaviours. Although intravenous use has been relatively low, there is evidence of an increase in injecting crystal meth as well as the extended sex sessions with multiple partners adding to an increased risk of HIV transmission. Little targeted communication has yet been produced to address these problems directly. Antidote, an LGBT drug and alcohol service, provide some advice as well as promote their services to 'partying' gay men ('Party Proud, Play Safe'). Antidote's approach demonstrates a concern about drug use in terms of general health and wellbeing, of which HIV risk may be just one factor. Their leaflet design is upbeat and friendly in tone, with this resource aimed at reducing occasional reckless behaviour rather than more systematic chemsex habits.

Other materials target those men who have already decided that they want to reduce or address their drug use. These are likely to be sited within the services themselves and may rely on recycling imagery. For example, the NHS SWAGNET 2014 poster 'Just one night with crystal meth', which uses an image from 2004, distributed via the Life Or Meth website. This type of imagery seems to indicate a return to the attitudes of the eighties towards heroin users. A naked man crouches in a foetal position surrounded by red tinged smoke and lights. He is a 'victim' of drugs – remorseful, isolated and in pain. The implied message in this case is very much about reduction and abstinence. The real challenge for the future will be to address men who do not necessarily think that they have a chemsex 'problem' but who may benefit from strategies to make their drug use and sexual encounters safer.