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## **Public Health and Enhancement Drugs** Wednesday 9th April 2014

# The use of enhancement drugs is by no means a new phenomenon. However, in recent years, needle and syringe programmes across the United Kingdom have experienced a significant increase in clients reporting the use of these drugs.

For many of these services, the majority of their clients are no longer opiates or stimulant users but injectors of anabolic steroids, growth hormones and other peptide hormones such as melanotan II. The levels of harm caused by enhancement drugs, in particular relating to those new and emerging drugs, remains largely unknown. However, case reports and cross-sectional studies indicate a range of chronic adverse conditions associated with this form of drug use. These include liver damage, cardiovascular pathologies, genitourinary disorders, and additionally, the presence of blood borne viruses including HIV, all of which contribute to this public health concern.

With leading international and UK speakers, this conference will explore the nature of this drug use together with the public health implications and the opportunities for effective harm reduction interventions.

#### **Conference** aims

- To highlight the use of image and enhancement drugs as a public health issue
- To examine public health responses to the issues raised
- To prompt local research and response
- To facilitate the exchange of knowledge, views and experience between diverse professions and disciplines

#### **Conference audience**

- Commissioners
- Practitioners
- Researchers
- · Representatives from the community

### To book a place at the conference, please e-mail: *PHED@ljmu.ac.uk* by Friday 21st March 2014

Please note that due to limited space, places will initially be restricted to one per organisation. If you have any queries regarding the conference then please contact: **PHED@ljmu.ac.uk** or call **Beccy Harrison** on **0151 231 4472** 

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#### **PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME\*** TIME DETAILS 9.15-9.45am Registration and refreshments Introduction to the University by the Pro Vice Chancellor 9.45-10.00am Introduction to the Conference by Chair Jim McVeigh (Acting Director, Centre for Public Health, LJMU) Keynote speaker – Bill Llewellyn (CEO of Molecular Nutrition and Author of ANABOLICS) – 10.00-11.00am Anabolic steroids: Old drugs. New issues 11.00-11.20am Refreshments John Campbell (Injecting Equipment Provision Manager, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde) -Meeting service users' needs - it's just a matter of fact Martin Chandler (Human Enhancement Drugs Researcher, Centre for Public Health, LJMU) -11.20am-12.30pm Anabolic steroids and associated drugs - the UK situation Dr Marie Claire Van Hout (Coordinator of the School of Health Sciences Substance Abuse Research Centre at Waterford Institute of Technology) - Melanotan - sun, sex and sickness

12.30-1.15pm Lunch Chair for the afternoon session - Paul Duffy - (Health Improvement Manager, Public Health England). Dr Adam Mackridge (Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice, LJMU; Member of the Public Health Advisory Committee for Needle and Syringe Programmes) - NICE guidance and recommendations for the provision of NSPs to PIED users Dr Viv Hope (Principal Scientist, Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance and Control, 1.15-2.35pm Public Health England) - Infections & injecting injuries among men who inject image and performance enhancing drugs Gary Beeny (Harm Reduction Worker - Manchester Public Health Development Service and Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust) - The Pump Clinic, Manchester Joseph Kean (Unity Recovery Centre Team Manager for the Bridge Project; Senior Trainer/Consultant for Nine Zero Five) - Is engaging steroid and IPED users a 'Massive' issue for you? 2.35-2.55pm Refreshments Andreas Kimergård (Visiting Lecturer, Centre for Public Health, LJMU) – International policy perspective 2.55-3.45pm Josie Smith (Research Scientist, Public Health Wales) - Developing an integrated anabolic steroid strategy Panel Q&A - this will include a number of the conference speakers 3.45-4.15pm Closing - Paul Duffy 4.15-4.30pm

\*Please note that the content and timings of the programme may be subject to change.