



Merchants Quay Ireland invite you to

...An Injection of Common Sense...

A seminar focussing on reducing the harm associated with injecting drug use and promoting positive health responses

&

The launch of the MQI 'Safer Injecting Guide'

By

Minister of State Pat Carey, TD

Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaelteacht Affairs with Special Responsibility for the National Drug Strategy and Community Affairs

Keynote Speaker: Neil Hunt

Founding Director - UK Harm Reduction Alliance

Also speaking at this seminar

Ruaidhri McAuliffe – Coordinator UISCE

Lynda Harran – RGN, Primary Health Care Service MQI

The panel will be chaired by **Tony Geoghegan**, Director – MQI

Seminar Details

Date: 3rd April 2008

Time: 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. (Registration, tea & coffee will begin at 9.30 a.m.)

Venue: The Conference Room, Merchants Quay Ireland, 4 Merchants Quay, D 8

There is no cost for attending this event

To register please contact Eobhan O'Brien on 01 – 6456527 or email eobhan.obrien@mqi.ie

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis

Please note: Merchants Quay Ireland reserve the right to change seminar details without prior notification

Neil Hunt (MSc Social Research) originally trained as a mental health nurse and has worked in a forensic psychiatry unit in the UK and adult acute admission wards both here and in New Zealand. He has been undertaking research in the drugs field for some 18 years.

A founding director of the UK Harm Reduction Alliance, his work has covered issues including injecting and risk, understanding drug trends, peer influence and young people, clubbers' drug use, human rights and drug user involvement. He developed the 'Break the Cycle' intervention to reduce injecting that has been disseminated nationally by the Department of Health.

Neil is an Honorary Senior Research Associate at the European Institute for of Social Services, University of Kent, Honorary Research Fellow with the Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Director of Research for the treatment agency KCA (UK). He also works as a freelance researcher and trainer.

He has completed various commissioned reviews of the evidence base for harm reduction. Recent research has included work on a) the 'QCT-Europe' project, which examined the effectiveness of 'Quasi-Compulsory Treatments' such as Drug Treatment and Testing Orders b) a Department of Health study of 'early exit' from treatment c) an evaluation of the distribution of foil packs to promote transitions from injecting within needle and syringe programmes. He is currently commissioned by the National Treatment Agency to produce guidance for England on the management of speedballing.

Ruaidhri McAuliffe is the coordinator of **UISCE** which is comprised of current and former drug users, and professionals who believe that the voice of the drug user is integral to the development of drug policy and in realising an effective treatment response. **UISCE** was established in 1999, as a result of a NICDTF (North Inner City Drug Task Force) initiative that recognised drug users as part of the community and, as recipients of services, should be involved in the assessment and policy making processes. **UISCE** facilitates the voice of drug users being represented in a formal way, in local task force structures

Lynda Harran is a Register General Nurse working in the Primary Health Care service in Merchants Quay Ireland (MQI). Lynda has extensive experience working with marginalised groups and on the issues of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's) and infectious diseases. In the past she established a nurse-led service working directly with people who were homeless. In addition, Lynda was involved, and continues to be involved, in the development of the SafetyNet Service which aims to provide comprehensive primary healthcare services targeted at people who are homeless. MQI is a leading Irish charity working with people who are homeless and drug users to reduce harm related to drug use and homelessness and to provide pathways towards rehabilitation or settlement.