

RCGP Substance Misuse Conference - Consensus statement

Getting it Right in Practice: Collaboration not Competition

12th National Conference RCGP Conference: Management of Drug Users in Primary Care
Thursday 19th and Friday 20th April 2007
Hilton Birmingham Metropole

Person-centred care is the main value underpinning all that we do in Primary Care.

We believe that all individuals should be able to have access to appropriate and effective primary care based drug treatment and healthcare within a collaborative whole treatment system.

All appropriate care options should be available wherever people are in the system and to all; on an unprejudiced basis, respecting diversity of human identity and experience. This can only be achieved in collaboration, and not in competition, with the whole community and its diverse elements including social, criminal justice and health.

Prisons and secure environments are part of our communities and *equivalence of opportunity* (matched by resources and policy) must be available to allow unprejudiced access to healthcare and drug treatment.

We respect the impact that monitoring and 'standardisation' has had on improving quality, however this should not become an end in itself. Practitioners need support and medico-legal backing to use their experience, judgement and clinical scope to work flexibly with individuals. Additionally, pressures for quantity of intervention and expedient outcome measures must not lead to a dilution of quality.

We call in particular on the media, and other sectors including Government, GP and other practitioner colleagues, to develop a responsible and mature code of conduct in relation to the reporting, discussing and addressing of drug issues: to help promote a greater societal responsibility which acknowledges and respond to, rather than scapegoats, the vulnerability, disadvantaged status and genuine harm experienced by many members of our communities.

We call on the Government to hear the voice of primary care, as a significant and progressive treatment community, in relation to the development of drug policy.

