

S.I.T.E. ^{GUIDE} TO DRUGSPEAK

HARM REDUCTION

BEFORE HIV/AIDS CAME ON THE SCENE, A LOT OF SERVICES THAT WERE SET UP TO HELP DRUG USERS WERE ONLY INTERESTED IN HELPING THOSE DRUG USERS WHO WANTED TO STOP USING DRUGS ALTOGETHER.

IN OTHER WORDS, THESE WERE 'ABSTINENCE' BASED SERVICES. THE PEOPLE THAT WORKED IN THESE AGENCIES WERE PAID TO HELP THOSE DRUG USERS WHO WANTED TO 'ABSTAIN' FROM (THAT IS, STOP) DRUG USE.

HIV HAS CHANGED ALL THAT!!

PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THE WAY THEY USE DRUGS. VERY DANGEROUS WAYS OF USING DRUGS CAN BE REPLACED BY MUCH SAFER WAYS OF USING. BUT HIV CAN LEAD TO FULL BLOWN AIDS. THERE IS NO CURE FOR AIDS SO DRUG AGENCIES AND DRUG USERS HAVE GOT TO WORK TOGETHER TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF HIV.

IN OTHER WORDS DRUGS AGENCIES ARE NOW IN BUSINESS TO HELP ALL DRUG USERS, NOT JUST THOSE WHO WANT TO STOP USING DRUGS.

WE KNOW THAT MOST PEOPLE USE DRUGS BECAUSE THEY LIKE IT AND THEY WILL STOP WHEN THEY ARE TRULY SICK OF IT!

WHAT PISSES US OFF IS THAT TOO MANY DRUG USERS HARM THEMSELVES, AND OTHER PEOPLE, BEFORE THEY DECIDE TO STOP USING. FOR THIS REASON A LOT OF DRUG AGENCIES ARE NOW PREPARED TO HELP YOU TO USE DRUGS AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE. IN OTHER WORDS AGENCIES HAVE SHIFTED FROM AN ABSTINENCE

BASE TO:

HARM REDUCTION

FOR EXAMPLE, YOU CAN NOW GO TO YOUR LOCAL DRUG AGENCY AND SAY:

I'M USING DRUGS AND I DON'T WANT TO STOP BUT I KNOW THAT THINGS ARE GETTING OUT OF HAND - WHAT DO YOU THINK?

LOOK I'M INJECTING BUT I KEEP GETTING ABSCESSSES - WHAT AM I DOING WRONG?



THE LADDER OF HARM

ON THIS PAGE YOU WILL FIND THE 'LADDER OF HARM'. THIS IS BEING USED BY DRUG WORKERS AS A WAY OF RECOGNISING LEVELS OF HARM AND HELPING DRUG USERS CHANGE TO SAFER FORMS OF DRUG USE. HAVE A GO AT THIS YOURSELF, DECIDE WHERE YOU WANT TO GO AND GET HELP IN GETTING THERE.

LEVELS OF DRUG USE VARY FROM VERY HIGH TO VERY LOW

HIGH LEVELS OF HARM OFTEN INVOLVE SHARING INJECTION EQUIPMENT WITH OTHER USERS TO INJECT ALL KINDS OF DRUGS THAT ARE NOT DESIGNED FOR INJECTION (TEMASEPAM, PAFIUM, DICONAL, VALOID etc) THESE RISKS INCREASE WHEN USERS ARE NOT VERY GOOD AT INJECTING, WHEN ALCOHOL IS USED AND WHEN DRUGS CAN ONLY BE PAID FOR BY STEALING OR SOME OTHER SHADY BUSINESS.

GET THE PICTURE? - THERE ARE SOME DRUG USERS WHO CARRY ON AS IF THEY WANT TO OVERDOSE, GET HIV OR GO TO JAIL (DAFT BASTARDS) - BUT MOST DRUG USERS WANT TO USE DRUGS AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE TILL THEY DECIDE TO PACK IT IN.

SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY WHERE YOU ARE ON THE LADDER AND THEN DECIDE WHERE YOU WANT TO BE AND **GET ON DOWN!**

