

**TACKLING  
DRUGS**

**CHANGING  
LIVES**

**AWARDS**

**2006**

## Award Winners 2006



  
Home Office



# Foreword

The costs of illegal drugs to the local community can be enormous. For the individual, drug misuse means wasted potential, missed opportunities, failed relationships and even loss of life. For the community, efforts to regenerate and reduce crime can be held back when families and neighbourhoods have to confront the problems associated with drug misuse.



The Tackling Drugs Changing Lives Awards have been established to reward drug workers and drug teams across the country who are taking direct positive action to tackle drugs and are changing the lives of service users and people in their local community.

I would like to congratulate the winners of the 2006 scheme for their outstanding achievements and commitment to turning

around the lives of drug misusers, their families and friends. The winners are a true example of people who go the extra mile every day of the week: either working in treatment centres, providing intensive support for pregnant drug misusers, helping to educate young people about the dangers of drugs or supporting families of service users, amongst many others.

So, many congratulations to each and every Tackling Drugs Changing Lives Awards winner. They are an inspiration to us all. As the forces of change in communities across the country, they demonstrate what is possible and provide hope and support where it is so greatly needed.

*Vernon Coaker*

**Vernon Coaker MP**  
**Home Office Drugs Minister**



# Programme for the day

**Date: 23 May**

**National Tackling Drugs Day**

**Venue: 1 Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA**

Host: Broadcaster Dermot Murnaghan

Presenter: Home Office Drugs Minister Vernon Coaker MP

The format for the day is as follows:

12.00 Guests arrive. Registration and memento photograph

12.30 Three-course meal

14.00 Ceremony begins

15.00 Drinks reception

15.30 Event ends

# The judges

## Vic Hogg

Vic Hogg has recently been appointed Director of Police Workforce Strategy at the Home Office. Prior to this he was the Director of the Drug Strategy Directorate, which is responsible for delivering the Government's Drug Strategy.

## Peter Wheelhouse

Peter Wheelhouse is Director of the Drug Interventions Programme in the Crime and Drugs Strategy Directorate of the Home Office. The Programme is a critical part of the Government's strategy for tackling drugs and reducing drug-related crime.

## Martin Barnes

Martin Barnes is Chief Executive of DrugScope, the UK's leading independent centre for drugs information and policy.

## Vivienne Evans

Vivienne Evans is Chief Executive of Adfam and has almost 30 years' experience in health and drugs education.

# The judges

## Paul Hayes

Paul Hayes has been Chief Executive of the National Treatment Agency since 2001, advising ministers and senior officials in the Department of Health and the Home Office on all issues to do with the provision of drug treatment in England.

## Joanna Jordan

Joanna Jordan is Director of Community Safety for the Welsh Assembly Government, and takes responsibility for the delivery of the substance misuse strategy for Wales.

## Martin Narey

Martin Narey is the Chief Executive of Barnardo's – the UK's leading children's charity. His previous posts include Chief Executive of the National Offender Management Service, Permanent Secretary at the Home Office and Director General of the Prison Service.

# Individual winners



## **Andy Wright** **South West**

Andy has been a personal adviser at Progress2Work for more than two years. He works on a one-to-one basis with

clients, providing specialist help, support and guidance to help them find work, undertake training, or go into education. Outside work, he has also joined his local Youth Offending Team as a volunteer. This has enabled him to gain a better understanding of the issues facing vulnerable young people. As someone with limited mobility, Andy strongly believes that you can overcome any obstacle if you put your mind to it. This belief really motivates his clients – 58 per cent of them have undertaken some kind of constructive activity – and his work is locally renowned.



## **Diane Barlow** **East of England**

As a pregnancy and neonatal nurse specialist offering vital support to substance-misusing women, Diane's role is believed

to be unique in the UK. She advocates the needs of her clients within mainstream maternity services, works closely with social services, and encourages women whose babies are born with neonatal abstinence syndrome to care for them throughout their treatment. Diane has made pregnancy, childbirth and the neonatal period a positive and fulfilling experience for mothers battling with substance misuse.

# Individual winners



**Perminder Dhillon**  
**London**

Perminder founded a drug and alcohol action programme in her local community of Ealing in 2003. In the last 18 months,

her outstanding dedication has enabled the small charity she started to give more than 800 people direct access to drug education and services. Although Perminder now holds a part-time post at the charity, she still works seven days a week, meeting users and carers, facilitating support groups, raising awareness and conducting research, particularly into drug use within South Asian and African communities.



**Bradley Fellows**  
**Wales**

In one client's words: 'Bradley offered me the chance to attend the Domino project.

The activities – such as working

on the allotment, weekly walks, computer classes and family barbecues – gave me a reason to get up each day and taught me new skills. He is there for all of us at our moments of doubt and without his support and the Domino programme I do not believe that I would be celebrating my sobriety. He has made me feel like a person again and he has helped me take responsibility for my life and stop blaming others. Once I turned up and there were only two of us that day. I thought the activity would be cancelled. "Cancelled?" said Bradley. "No chance. You have turned up and you are worth it." This is a message I will never forget.'

# Individual winners



## **Noreen Oliver** **West Midlands**

As an ex-user, Noreen understands the struggles her clients face to become drug- and alcohol-free. She set up

the Burton Addiction Centre seven years ago, using her inheritance, and it is still the only daycare rehabilitation centre in Staffordshire. It has trebled in size over the last seven years, and offers clients quality care by highly trained and motivated staff. Working in partnership with Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) teams, Drug Action Teams (DATs) social services and prisons, Noreen is the driving force behind inter-agency football tournaments, clients' days out, the annual Christmas party (catering for 400 current and ex-clients) and, recently, supported housing. Noreen's high success rates are testament to her energy, drive and unparalleled commitment.



## **Carol Darbyshire** **Yorkshire and the Humber**

Carol is a young person's outreach worker who works in partnership with Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing to

support and encourage clients with a drug misuse problem. She is instrumental in bringing groups, agencies and organisations together to establish action plans and highlight areas of concern. As a result the local community has become confident in tackling the problems of drug misuse, crime and antisocial behaviour, and the service offers a range of positive activities and events, including bowling, skating, football tournaments, off-road biking, drugs awareness workshops and young people's 'chill-out nights'. Carol is a larger-than-life character who relates very well to young people, and her positive outlook means that she has a fantastic relationship with everyone she meets.

# Individual winners



## **Laura Brown** **North West**

Laura supports anyone in the community whose substance misuse impacts on the life of a child under five years old.

She sees her involvement with a client as a long-term commitment, supporting them in hospital, at home, during rehabilitation and in prison, often as their only avenue of support. She tries to ensure that parents retain contact with their children, even in complex circumstances, and helps them access training and employment facilities. Her innovation and understanding foster significant life changes for clients, helping them to retain, or regain, their dignity and their families.



## **David Gordon** **South East**

David runs a mobile needle exchange and works with over 400 people, promoting safer injecting and sexual practices

and advising on harm reduction. He also works with Southampton's Working Women project, and has set up a needle exchange with the custody suites in Southampton's police stations. These outreach projects have been very well received by prostitutes, drug users in custody and the police. David is an excellent practitioner with a positive and non-judgemental approach. He is very popular with service users and it is they who have championed him for this award.

# Individual winners



## **Andrea Fox** **East Midlands**

The Drop Inn is Andrea's brainchild and, over the last six years, the project has had a marked positive benefit for

the young people of Belper and the community as a whole. Andrea works with young people at greatest risk from drug abuse, disorder and criminality, making herself available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. She often gives non-statutory assistance and support to young people at court and in prison, as well as providing a safe environment for young people where education, activities and facilities (such as a gym) are freely available. The effect on the young people she supports is one of increased self-confidence and respect for other members of society.



## **Sharyn Charlton** **North East**

In the words of a client: 'Sharyn is a user involvement worker in South Tyneside. In her spare time she also works with the

Tyne and Wear Advocacy Group, training ex-users to help other users with housing, debt and employment problems. She is honest and hard-working and can make people laugh even when they are at their lowest. She regularly visits A&E and prisons; she walks around the streets for hours looking for people she hasn't seen for a while; she comes to our homes and helps us find homes! She makes sure people have gas, electricity and food, and she will go to court and advocate for us. At the moment there are 30 ex-users who have trained as advocates and we want to thank her and tell her she's brilliant!'



RICHARD JOHNSON  
LIVE MUSIC  
ENG TEAM

# Team winners



## The Clockwise Centre East of England

The team provides extensive support for service users,

in the Centre, through their outreach facility, and in conjunction with rehabilitation agencies and Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare (CARAT) teams at Chelmsford Prison. Despite managing on a very limited budget, the team provides wraparound services to more than 100 service users, enabling them to rejoin their local community and make a positive impact. Team members fulfil joint and individual responsibilities, and their work has been rewarded with Investors in People Awards and, recently, the Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) Award 2006.



## Cyswllt Ceredigion Contact Wales

Combining flexibility and professionalism, this small team provides three-stage treatment, one-to-one and group counselling, aftercare support, and help with housing, job-related training, employment, childcare and travel for clients. They deliver this package by forging and sustaining partnerships with statutory and non-statutory partners, including housing agencies, women's refuges and regional and local NHS trusts, and by giving presentations of their services to GPs' surgeries across the region. The team also runs drug awareness programmes for families of clients and for schools. Their commitment, enthusiasm and good practice have been recognised by BBC Wales and DrugScope.

# Team winners



## Dads Against Drugs (DAD) Yorks and the Humber

Since it was formed two years ago, the DAD team has given hundreds of hours of unpaid time to promote anti-drugs messages through football coaching. The DAD team has enabled links between education and sport; staged high-profile conferences and publicity-generating football matches; and produced a report on football as a means to educate young people about drugs. In addition, team members provide ongoing basic skills training to people who are unemployed; coach prison teams; arrange drug awareness courses for parents; and continue to spread the anti-drugs message to over 200 of Hull's young people every week.



## The Manor Hotel West Midlands

In the words of a client: 'The staff at the Manor Hotel work with over 40 different organisations to help us with our drug addiction, offering counselling, teaching us parenting skills and helping us progress to a new life. They often take me to visit my children and the bond between my family and me has got stronger. I can also see how the other people around me are changing – it's like we have something to live for. Our local newspapers always refer to the Manor Hotel as a pioneering drug service, and their success rates confirm this.'

# Team winners



## **Gloucestershire Young People's Substance Misuse Service (YPS MS) South West**

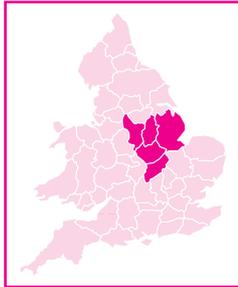
The YPSMS works with people under the age of 18 whose drug or alcohol use is having a negative impact on their lives. The service co-ordinates comprehensive and often intense care packages for each client, which may include interventions such as family therapy or anger management, or may focus on clients' broader needs in areas such as housing, education and employment. Collaborative working has been key to the development of this service, which currently successfully engages more than 200 young people a year.



## **Escape Family Support Ltd North East**

This organisation, started as a community self-help group 11 years ago, now provides a range of holistic services led by clients' individual needs. The team's employees and volunteers have developed a vibrant charity, embracing families and carers as well as drug misusers, and have helped over 700 people in the last year. This exemplary charity has developed partnerships right across Northumberland and they network at every opportunity to improve the lives of their clients. Their contribution to the wider sector is innovative and highly respected.

# Team winners

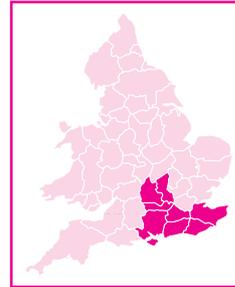


## **SPODA** **East Midlands**

In the words of a client:  
'The team interacts  
brilliantly – if your normal  
worker is not available  
they never put you off.

Their support for each

other underpins their very efficient and caring service, specialising in supporting families of drug misusers. As well as group meetings for all clients, there are special grandparents' and fathers' groups, and specialist help is available if a family suffers bereavement through drug misuse. In addition, they attend court with clients, visit them in prison and go to meetings with social services and other agencies, in order to support both clients and carers. My family cannot praise them enough and we would like, through this nomination, to give a little back to them for the care and support they gave us.'



## **Brighton Oasis** **Project** **South East**

The Project aims to reduce  
drug-related harm to  
women and their children,  
working proactively to

integrate services for women into the local treatment system. The team goes the extra mile for its clients: accompanying them to court; visiting them during in-patient detox; using their own money, computers and furniture to equip and refurbish the office; arranging activities; providing crèche places to support their clients' treatment; and working alongside sex-working clients to produce the *Sex Workers' Handbook* to improve safety on the streets. Their local reputation for being approachable, responsive and professional is well deserved, and the team's nomination is widely supported by its clients.

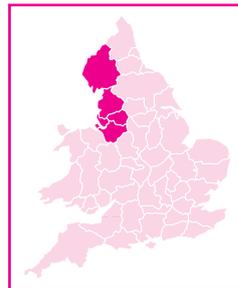
# Team winners



## **Health E1 Homeless Medical Centre London**

Health E1 is dedicated to meeting the complex needs of homeless people. Of the

1,440 clients who are registered at the clinic, 53 per cent have a drug or alcohol dependency problem, so staff have developed a proactive multi-agency treatment programme to minimise the risk of chaotic clients 'falling out' of services, including a full-time substance misuse specialist and mental health specialist. Health E1 is extraordinarily successful in engaging and retaining homeless people (currently 80 per cent of clients on methadone prescriptions have been engaged in treatment for more than three months), and their commitment to meeting the needs of this vulnerable group makes them extremely popular with clients.



## **Addaction Cumbria Structured Day Care Team North West**

The team is dispersed across

2,500 square miles of Cumbria and they really support each other, making regular contact and sharing good practice. They provide one-to-one meetings, personal development and alternative therapies in three locations, but have also developed a number of innovative outreach services that enable access for many more clients in isolated rural communities. They work creatively to overcome poor infrastructure, public transport difficulties and negative perceptions in local communities. Their success in building relationships with local people, agencies and the police is demonstrated by the high motivation of their clients.



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