

Open Awards Qualification Unit



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1 Unit Details

Unit Title:	Providing Harm Reduction Support to People who use Drugs
Unit Reference Number::	T/618/2518
Level:	3
Credit Value:	3
Minimum GLH:	21

2 Learning Outcomes and Criteria

Learning Outcome (The Learner will):	Assessment Criterion (The Learner can):
1. Understand what is meant by “harm reduction” as an approach to working with people who use drugs	1.1 Describe the range of health, social and economic harms to the individual, community and society related to drug use
	1.2 Describe the key principles of harm reduction
	1.3 Describe a range of harm reduction activities and comment on their effectiveness
2. Understand the risks of blood borne viruses for people who inject drugs	2.1 Explain the transmission routes of blood borne viruses
	2.2 Discuss the UK transmission figures for Hepatitis C and HIV compared with European statistics
	2.3 Summarise current treatment options for people who have HIV and Hepatitis C
3. Understand what contributes to drug related deaths and ways of reducing them	3.1 List current UK drug related death figures and discuss what factors contribute to them
	3.2 Discuss the effectiveness of 3 strategies to reduce drug related deaths
4. Understand the risks of sexually transmitted infections for drug users	4.1 Describe at least 3 sexually transmitted infections, including transmission routes
	4.2 Describe what advice you might give to someone to reduce the risk of them contracting

	a sexually transmitted infection
	4.3 Describe the connection between drug use and sexual health in specific circumstances
	4.4 Describe referral and treatment pathways
5. Understand the principles of safer injection and needle/syringe programmes	5.1 Describe specific health risks associated with injecting drug use
	5.2 Describe what information you would give someone who injects drugs when aiming to reduce the risk of injecting related harms
	5.3 Describe the origins and aims of needle exchange/syringe programmes in the UK
	5.4 Describe best practice in needle/syringe programmes

Indicative Content	
LO 1	AC 1.2 Learners should be referred to the United Kingdom Harm Reduction Alliance (UKHRA) principles of Harm Reduction, when providing evidence of their descriptions. AC 1.3 Examples could include: Needle exchange BBV screening Safer drinking guidelines Sexual Health harm reduction Drug safety testing Safer nightlife
LO 2	AC 2.3 - New HIV and Hepatitis C medications are showing improved efficacy. Learners should discuss about these and name the drugs and emerging trends.
LO 4	4.3 – Subjects that the learner should be considering are: Substance related sex Chemsex Sex work to fund drug use Younger peoples use of drugs and sex