



2026 Annual Conference Developments in Harm Reduction

4 June 2026

2026 Annual Conference Programme

9:00-10:00	Registration, coffee, and networking
10:00-10:10	Welcome remarks: Drugs Research Network for Scotland
10:10-10:20	Welcome remarks: Gordon Ramage, Director of the Research Centre for Health (ReaCH), Glasgow Caledonian University
10:20-10:30	Maggie Page MSP, Unit Head of Drugs Policy, Scottish Government
10:30-11:10	Keynote: Dr Chelsea Shover, Assistant Professor-in-Residence, University of California Los Angeles School of Medicine <i>Implementing Drug Checking as a Population Health Approach: Joining Science and Living Experience to Answer Pressing Questions About the Unregulated Drug Supply</i>
11:10-11:40	Networking and move to parallel sessions
11:40-13:00	Parallel sessions
13:00-14:00	Lunch and networking
14:00-14:15	Poster session
14:15-15:10	Ketamine Rapid Review Launch Presentation and Panel Dr Kristin E. Ceniccola-Campos, Laura Murphy, and Thomas Delaney
15:10-15:50	Keynote: Prof Catherine Comiskey, Professor Of Healthcare Modelling, School of Nursing & Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin <i>A Child and Young Person Impact Assessment of the First Safe Injecting Facility in Ireland</i>
15:50-16:00	Closing remarks and poster award
16:00-16:45	Refreshments and networking



Parallel Session 1

Monitoring Drug-Related Harms in Scotland

11:40-12:00	Norah Palmateer Monitoring Blood-Borne Viruses, Risk Behaviours and Other Drug-related Harms Among People who Inject Drugs in Scotland: Insights from 15 years of the Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI)
12:00-12:20	Matthew Hickman A Trend in Prevalence of Opioid Dependence in Scotland 2014-2023: Multi-Parameter Estimation of Prevalence (MPEP)
12:20-12:40	Lorna Nisbet Establishing Scotland's National Testing and Research Laboratory: An Update from Scotland's First Drug Checking Service
12:40-13:00	Samantha Stewart Pilot Evaluation of Nitazene Testing Strips from Staff & Living Experience Perspectives



Parallel Session 2

Women's Experiences of Substance Use and Care

11:40-12:00	April Shaw 'Addiction Never Seems to Be Historic': How Women in Recovery Experience Stigma Within Their Practitioner-Patient Communications
12:00-12:20	Shona Shinwell Opioid Use During Pregnancy and Maternal Mortality: A Scottish Cohort Study
12:20-12:40	Vicki Beere Women's Experiences of, and Barriers to, Drug Treatment
12:40-13:00	Polly Radcliffe Evaluation of Simon Community Scotland Safer Services Model in Services for Women Experiencing or at Risk of Homelessness

Parallel Session 3

From Data to Drug Deaths: What the Evidence Tells Us

11:40-12:00	Bidisha Kundu The Impact of Scaling Up Hepatitis C Virus Treatment Among People Who Inject Drugs in Tayside and Across Scotland: A Modelling Analysis
12:00-12:20	Carlo-Delfin Estadilla A Web-based Calculator to Quantify the Impact of Opioid Agonist Therapy on Drug Related Deaths: Application to Scotland
12:20-12:40	Rosalyn Fraser Mortality Among Individuals Prescribed Long-Acting Injectable Buprenorphine (LAIB) in Scotland, 2020–2023: A National Retrospective Cohort Study
12:40-13:00	Catriona Matheson Learning From Drug Death Reviews

Parallel Session 4

Gaps, Innovations, and the Evolving Treatment Landscape

11:40-12:00	Wendy Masterton Exploring the Potential of Nature-based Interventions Within Existing Treatment and Support Provisions for People with Substance Dependence
12:00-12:20	Beata Ciesluk “People are overdosing on drugs that we don't know”- Addiction Treatment Providers’ Perspectives on Training Gaps Regarding the Emerging Substance use Patterns in Scotland
12:20-12:40	Karen Berry From Feasibility to Full Trial: Developing a UK-Wide Benzodiazepine Harm Reduction Intervention Incorporating Maintenance Diazepam Prescribing
12:40-13:00	Louise Horn What’s the Crack? Experience of MAT Standards Implementation for People who use Cocaine/crack in four Scottish Health Boards

Poster Presentations

April Shaw

Reducing health inequalities and promoting well-being in Scotland for marginalised women in middle and later years

Wez Steele

Establishing, embedding, and supporting peer naloxone supply within Scottish Prisons

Pauline Campbell

What Are the Health Outcomes of Court-Ordered Drug and Alcohol Treatment?

Marissa Cummings

Designing digital interventions with staff and service users to support community-based addiction management and mental health

Esme Foxworthy-Bowers

Toxicology Surveillance and its Contribution to Harm Reduction in Treatment of Co-Occurring OAT and Benzodiazepine Substance Use Disorder

Ntau Mafisa

Novel Detection of New Psychoactive Substances in Scotland

Victoria Marland

From Paper to Powders: Variability in Synthetic Cannabinoid Purity in Scottish Prisons

Carrie Thomson

Mobilising Scotland to be Recovery Oriented

Poster Presentations

Faye Murfet

Compass – bringing services together under one roof

Barry Chapman

Implementing Long-Acting Injectable Buprenorphine in Primary Care: A Pilot Evaluation

Megan Glancy

Drug-Related Death Rates Associated with Prescribed and Illicit Benzodiazepine Exposure Among People Receiving Opioid-Agonist Treatment in Scotland, 2011 to 2020

Sahir Hussain

Co-development of a culturally appropriate alcohol screening toolkit for community and mental health organisations

Samantha Stewart

Evaluation of Long-acting Injectable Buprenorphine Provision Across Scotland

Odochi Ogbu Chukwu

The Impact of Medication-Assisted Treatment Initiated in Prison on Post-Release Outcomes: A Systematic Review and Narrative Synthesis

Lucy Brennen

Ketamine Use and Harms Among Young People in Scotland: Emerging Public Health Intelligence from Local and National Sources

Andy Perkins

‘COME AS YOU ARE’ Low-threshold Harm Reduction Cafes as Evening Spaces of Safety, Connection, and Trust: Learning from the evaluation of North Lanarkshire Harm Reduction Cafes



The Drugs Research Network for Scotland aims to create and encourage the sharing of knowledge around drug related issues to inform developments in policy and practice.

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