

## Are Churches Ready to Manage Drug-Related Incidents?

If you received our last mailing, you will remember we were asking for church leaders and administrators to complete a short survey for us. We wanted to know if churches had thought about what they would do if someone was found using, or in possession of, drugs on the church premises (which includes the church grounds). Under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act, owners and managers of premises have a legal duty to prevent drug use, possession, etc.

We were also wondering if churches were preparing the young people they come into contact with to manage drug-related issues. We are particularly concerned about this, as we have often had to support young people at university who are struggling with living in flats with others around them who are using drugs or drinking heavily. How do the young people who don't want to use drugs, or drink alcohol, manage this? How do they find friends and have a good time at university? Some young people found that there were almost no events at Freshers Week that did not include heavy drinking.

We found that many churches did not have a policy, or training, to manage drug-related incidents, and many also had not considered how they would help their young people with these issues.

These were the results:

1. 50% of churches thought a staff member or volunteer know what to do if someone was found either possessing or using drugs on their church premises.
2. Only 27% had a way to record actions taken by a staff member or volunteer if drugs are found, or drug use is identified or suspected.
3. 75% of churches did NOT have a plan to help young people at their church learn how to manage drug related issues. (For example, if offered a drug at a party.)
4. 80% of churches did not have a drug policy.
5. Where churches had a policy, only 43% had trained their staff and were confident they knew what to do.
6. Of the churches that did not have a policy, 90% felt that they would find one useful.

### Possible Actions:

If you think your church or organisation might benefit from thinking through some of the above issues, the following may help you:

**Drug Policy:** We have a document to help you write a policy for your church (or any organisation). You can find it on our website—[www.hopeuk.org/churches/](http://www.hopeuk.org/churches/) (click on 'Drug Policy')

**Preparation for your young people:** This is what we specialise in! Why not invite one of our educators to come and do some work with your youth group? Or get your workers trained—either with one of our accredited programmes or with a bespoke training course. You could even get one or two people from your church to train as a voluntary educator with Hope UK, so you could help others in the wider community as well as your own young people.

Please feel free to contact us ([enquiries@hopeuk.org](mailto:enquiries@hopeuk.org)) to discuss further help and support.

## Generation Hope News and Events

Since the Summer Newsletter, we have said goodbye to Hannah, our Generation Hope worker, and Patricia has been looking after the young people while we recruit a new staff member to help us develop events and groups in other areas of the UK—so far we have mostly focused on London, with a few events in other areas.

### Girls' Weekend:

At the request of one of the Hope UK educators, the older Generation Hope girls led a weekend for the younger ones. In the end, owing to other commitments, only two leaders were available—Emily and Rosie. They led a fantastic weekend, looking at Role Models, Image and Identity, How to manage at School and in Social Situations, Feminism, and Relationships. The weekend included an evening of games and socialising, a 'Girls' Night In' (where they also watched the film 'Hidden Figures') and an outing to the V&A (It was meant to be a trip to go boating in Regent's Park but it was a VERY wet day!).

### 15+ Weekend:

Young people came from Wales, Yorkshire, Surrey, Hertfordshire and London to stay at Chellington, a lovely youth centre in Bedfordshire. Age from 15 to 24, they played games, went for a walk in a country park, had a campfire (with marshmallows, obviously) and also did some learning (!). Rob, from The Naked Truth, discussed pornography with them. They also learnt about what the Sabbath means, learnt a bit about spiritual warfare, took part in a Labyrinth and considered how to 'live differently'. Many of those attending are very active members of Generation Hope, and this was a chance for them to have a weekend of hanging out together.

### New National Youth Co-ordinator:

Charmaine Smith will be joining us in January to help take Generation Hope forward.

She says: "I am a returner to the Hope UK clan, having first joined the organisation 18 years ago as the Youth Work Coordinator. I left in 2003 to pursue other ventures namely teaching.

I have worked as an ICT and Essential skills teacher in prisons, pupil referral units and FE colleges.

I have also been in church leadership for over 18 years, mainly overseeing the Youth ministry, however my current responsibilities also includes the role of chair of the trustees board.

I am looking forward to this new chapter at Hope UK to see what he has in store."



## Church Packs

If you do not have someone in your church who would like to train as a volunteer, or time to invite one of our highly trained volunteers to your groups, you might like to use some of our resources yourself!

We have been working on resources for you to use, and you can find them at

<https://www.hopeuk.org/churches/>

There are four topics covered there—Addiction, Choices, Freedom and Fun. You will find you can pick and choose ideas and activities, they are very interchangeable.

These are new, so we are very happy to receive any feedback you may have—and we will gradually develop them and add to them in the coming months.

Other resources can be found on the website—films can be found at [www.hopeuk.org/hope-uk-films/](http://www.hopeuk.org/hope-uk-films/) and other games at [www.hopeuk.org/sample-activities/](http://www.hopeuk.org/sample-activities/)

## Introducing some Volunteers



**Athina**  
Has been involved with all kinds of activities. Here she is modelling our t-shirt at the ISAAC conference



**Lynne**  
Not only takes sessions in quite challenging situations, but this year has also kindly come into the office frequently to help with admin.



**Gloria**  
Is probably the busiest 'detached worker', regularly running stands in Northamptonshire with Audrey, as well as assisting elsewhere.

**Dean**  
Is a youth worker in Southampton. He uses his training within his own youth work, as well as taking sessions with other youth groups.



## Introducing our Fundraiser

Thuli has just joined the staff team as our fundraiser. Her work focuses on mobilising financial resources for the organisation to continue to grow. She is passionate about seeing young people realise their full potential through choosing to lead drug and alcohol-free lives.

Prior to joining Hope UK, Thuli worked in international development, communications, fundraising and programme management at NGOs including Oxfam, Skillshare International and Oxford Policy Management. Thuli will be based in the Kettering office, although she will no doubt travel around a bit!

We are sure Thuli would appreciate hearing from anyone who would like to help with fundraising—her e-mail is [t.ndlovu@hopeuk.org](mailto:t.ndlovu@hopeuk.org).



## Volunteer as a Drug Educator



Children and young people are at the heart of Hope UK's mission.

Our mission is to equip young people to make drug-free choices.

Our vision is to see young people develop the knowledge and life skills needed to make healthy choices around drug-use, and to be able to transfer these skills into other areas of their lives.

"Overall, we have learnt not to take drugs because we are beautiful smart children"  
- Student, London



Hope UK's Drug Educators...

- Volunteer in their local community
- Take sessions/informal activities with young people and adults
- Are trained to help prevent drug related harm
- Receive accredited training and ongoing support

If you...  
Share our vision

And are...  
A drug and alcohol-free Christian

...We'd love to hear from you.

Please visit [www.hopeuk.org/volunteering](http://www.hopeuk.org/volunteering) or call 020 7928 0848 for your FREE information pack.

50 Gold Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN16 8JB  
020 7928 0848 | [enquiries@hopeuk.org](mailto:enquiries@hopeuk.org) | [hopeuk.org](http://hopeuk.org)

## Annual Meeting and Conference

Advance notice of our conference and Annual Meeting weekend.

It will be held at All Nations College on **12th –14th April 2019**. (15-25 year olds will start on 11th).

The Annual Meeting will be held at 2pm on the Saturday (13th April) you are welcome to attend the meeting and the whole weekend.

## Is your information up to date?

We hope you enjoy hearing from Hope UK, about our work. However, we are aware that we may be contacting an organisation and the person we used to mail has moved on—or maybe you would prefer not to hear from us any more.

Please contact us at [enquiries@hopeuk.org](mailto:enquiries@hopeuk.org) if you would prefer not to hear from us again (or call us on 020 7928 0848).

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