

a free public talk

## The UK Drug Situation: A case for enhanced harm reduction

### Rob Barker

#### :: About the Presentation

In the UK, drug related deaths are the highest on record; MDMA purity is at one of its highest levels; and the UK occupies one of the top spots in Europe for New Psychoactive Substance (NPS) use. This presentation will go through the good, the bad and the shameful drug policies in the UK, including the Welsh Take Home Naloxone programme, drug testing and the repeated claim by the UK government that current policies are working. The presentation will also explain current drug treatment frameworks, the future of harm reduction in Wales and the current situation, with the establishment of the first Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in the UK.

#### :: About the Speaker

Rob Barker is a service manager for Drugaid Cymru, the largest substance misuse treatment service in Wales. Rob is currently undertaking a Winston Churchill Fellowship, a trust that funds UK citizens to investigate and report on innovative practices in other countries. He currently sits on the Welsh Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) steering group and is looking at establishing the first such facility in Wales. Rob is travelling throughout Canada, as well as visiting Seattle, before heading back to Europe in his pursuit of gaining insight into supervised injecting sites.

Rob holds an MSc in Addictive Behaviours from the University of Liverpool. He has a keen interest in drug policy reform, including cannabis regulation, as well as new psychoactive substances. Rob has led multiple national campaigns throughout Wales and runs masterclasses on NPS.

**Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at noon**

**Royal Jubilee Hospital**

**Patient Care Centre**

**Room S169 (Lecture Theatre)**

1952 Bay St., Victoria, V8R 1J8

& VIA WEBINAR: [bit.ly/CARBC-RobBarker](https://bit.ly/CARBC-RobBarker)

