

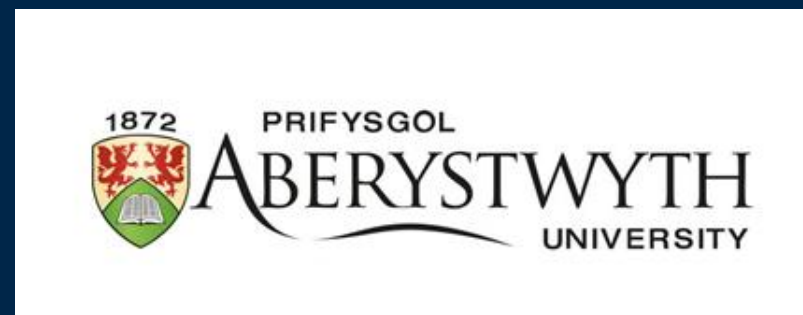
# Working with Organisations

**Aberystwyth University**

**&**

**Dyfed Drug and Alcohol Service**

**DDAS**



# Introduction & Aims

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- Our journey
- Creating change
- Working relationships
- SOS UK Accreditation
- Future plans
- Tips!



Adam Whitehouse  
Team Leader  
DDAS



Ellie Lewis  
(RMN)  
Lead Practitioner

# Our Journey

## 2018/19

- Previous MDT joint working
- No structure or plan
- Resistance from staff to adopt change or develop
- Priorities didn't match
- 2020 COVID halted the development of working relationships

## 2022

- Partnership working- Building new working relationships
- Assessment of university needs and DDAS service capacity
- Allocation of Drug and Alcohol Lead at the university
- Identifying gaps in support

## 2023

- On Campus Clinic
- Harm Reduction approach and change in culture
- A multidisciplinary substance use campus model
- Teaching sessions
- Harm Reduction steering group
- Involvement in events happening on campus

## 2024

- Audit and SOS UK Accreditation
- New Drug and Alcohol policy
- Harm Reduction strategy
- Joint Pledge
- New Narratives volunteers
- Harm Reduction webpage
- Direct digital referral pathway

## 2025

- Introduction of peer led clinics
- Regular meetings to review working relationship
- DDAS DV link. Direct referral pathway to uni SVLO
- Using this experience to influence future partnership working with other stakeholders

# Creating Change

- Move away from Zero-tolerance
- Policy Vs Practice
- Limited knowledge of services and support
- Referrals unsupported
- Partnering based on individual relationships – lacking strategy
- Student feedback that initial access to services beyond Campus created barriers for some
- Challenging stigma at all levels
- Supporting staff and concerned others



# Sustainable Working relationships

Regular Meetings to review practice (direct link to Harm Reduction lead)

Care/Direct pathway developed and in place

DDAS a key member of Harm Reduction Group

Training and Information provision to students and staff

Allocated space within Student Welcome Centre for Student (and Staff) drop ins/appointments

Support with Trauma Informed Alcohol & Drugs (Harm Reduction) Policy and approach

# Gaining SOS UK Accreditation

## SOS UK Drug & Alcohol Impact Project

- A collaborative initiative between **Aberystwyth University, Undeb SU, and DDAS** to enhance harm reduction strategies.
- **Achieved 2-year accreditation** in September 2024
- **Completed in just 1 year**—making us the **1st university in the UK** to do so and the **2nd in Wales** to complete the project.
- Success was driven by **existing substance use interventions & embedded data** on campus.
- **New harm reduction webpage** launched on the Aber Uni website:
  - Features a **joint pledge** from DDAS, the University, and the SU.
  - Includes a **digital DDAS referral link** and access to **new policies & strategies**.

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DRUG & ALCOHOL IMPACT

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has achieved the Drug & Alcohol Impact Accreditation  
in September 2024



STUDENTS  
ORGANISING FOR  
SUSTAINABILITY  
UNITED KINGDOM

Drug & Alcohol  
Impact



# Whats Next.....

- Establish a Training & Development Framework
- Establish a student peer support drop-in on campus
- Increase knowledge & awareness with services understood through student lifecycle
- Develop Campus as Connector (for 3rd Sector Services) model
- Increase the campus sober events programme



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## DDAS– Dyfed Drug and Alcohol Service

(Weekly drop in's every Tuesday 9.30-16.30)

Call: 01970 626 470

## Papyrus

(Drop in days will vary, please ask reception for further information)

Hopeline247:

Call: 0800 068 4141 Text: 07860 039 967



# Our Tips!

- Build a relationship on Trust and Respect
- Information sharing agreement
- Regular reviews & opportunities to develop
- Signage and Access to your building
- Develop a direct referral pathway
- Substance use support for students, staff and concerned others
- Consider which drug service you need to approach
- Domestic violence links

# Reach Out To Us!

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**Diolch  
Thank You**