

NARCONON®

40 YEARS

COMMEMORATING 40 YEARS
of

NARCONON®
DRUG EDUCATION AND PREVENTION
IN THE UK

2020 is definitely worth remembering, if only to commemorate 40 years of Narconon delivering Narconon's 'The Truth About Drugs' sessions in youth clubs, businesses, community groups and, most of all, schools across the UK. Prevention is always better than cure.

In 1980, the first Narconon 'The Truth About Drugs' session was organised in an East-End youth club by Rhoda Zeffertt, Noel Nile and Susie Levett. Youth clubs were the main venues for such sessions to begin with. Then, a well-known actor of that time, David Kossoff (who had lost his son to drugs and was lecturing in schools), recommended Narconon to a top private school when he was unable to attend. That session was extremely successful, and the teachers then recommended us to other schools.

Since then, Narconon UK has reached well over a million individuals with this information, during more than 10,000 sessions in schools. During the last few years before 2020, Narconon has been reaching over 25,000 UK school pupils a year. In 2020, despite lockdowns, we still reached over 5000 pupils with our standard presentations and our new webinars.



"I can use what I learned to be more aware and think situations through before committing to anything and not to fall under peer pressure."

Worcestershire Pupil

DIRECTORS OVER THE YEARS



SHEILA GAIMAN

As a pharmacist, I have worked with drugs for many years and know that drug education is most vital in this day and age. Young people especially are always eager to try new things but they often don't realize the harm they can do to their minds and bodies.

RHODA ZEFFERTT

I have taken an interest in drug education for around the last 50 years. Street drugs have become 'normal' to take! I used to do education work in Brixton in the 1980s. It is more important than ever to give children at school drug education, so that they fully understand and realise the dangers involved in taking drugs.



LESLEY ZIMMATORE

I worked in the field of drug education in the late 80s and early 90s. These lectures are very popular as drugs are the ruin of this planet and a very real threat to our coming generations. The importance of drug education must not be underestimated. Drug education is the preventative side of Narconon and the lecturer is very real to the students as he has his own experience in the field of drugs and the children listen to him and respect him. This work continues not just here but worldwide. It is invaluable.

NOEL NILE

Since we launched drug education, way back in 1980, I have seen first-hand the benefits of providing students and youth with the real facts about drugs. When we started, there was a complete vacuum of information for young people, which left them vulnerable to peer pressure. Often after lectures, students would talk to us confidentially and thank us for what they had learnt. Across the years, success stories and feedback have shown us that drug education is more vital than ever in our schools. We look forward to the next 40 years, striving to reverse drug use and to give our youth a better future.



SHEILA MACLEAN

Narconon's Truth about Drugs format avoids the clichés associated with drug education by providing a unique insight into the effects of drugs not just on the body but on the mind.

"I would personally like to thank you for the talks given to year 7 students. They found it interesting, stimulating and informative. Both myself and the Key Stage 3 manager were impressed with your knowledge and delivery of such a difficult yet important topic."

Teacher



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

LUCY SKIRROW
NARCONON DRUG EDUCATION

Sadly 2019 brought a new highest-ever: 4,393 fatal drug poisonings in England and Wales. In 2018, the USA's opioid epidemic claimed over 46,000 individuals among 67,367 drug-overdose deaths. Those very tragic statistics represent the very worst outcomes of drug abuse.

Many thousands more suffer harmful effects rippling through communities and societies at enormous cost to wellbeing and economies. Currently our main concern is younger teenagers, and even older ones, who perceive there is no harm or risk to cannabis use.

According to NIDA (National Institute on Drug Addiction) "Marijuana use can lead to the development of a substance use disorder, a medical illness in which the person is unable to stop using even though it's causing health and social problems in their life. Severe substance use disorders are also known as addiction. Research suggests that between 9 and 30 percent of those who use marijuana may develop some degree of marijuana use disorder. People who begin using marijuana before age 18 are four to seven times more likely than adults to develop a marijuana use disorder."

Drug education and prevention campaigns are needed now more than ever. We can all make a difference by raising awareness that drugs and alcohol do not resolve life's problems.

Drug education is effective, as demonstrated by the high volume of positive feedback and a Narconon study which can be viewed at <https://www.narconon.org/about-narconon/studies-and-reports/narconon-drug-education-high-schools.html>.

Effective drug education must address the reasons, such as unhappiness and peer-pressure, that someone tries drugs in the first place. The short-lived highs of drugs and alcohol are not a substitute for the real highs of life achieved through a job well done, sport, music or charitable works. Therefore drug education should be provided within a framework of the vital life-factors each individual needs for wellbeing and good mental health: purpose in life, skills, resilience, moral values, love, family, and friends – and having fun!

Hence our 'The Truth About Drugs' session emphasises 'GOING FOR GOALS'. Every individual has a purpose, however large or small, to be encouraged and inspired. We can all help each other in our families, communities, schools and companies to achieve this.

We will continue our endeavour to steer people, particularly the young, away from drugs and towards their personal purpose in life. Thank you to our trustees and everyone else who has worked so hard to do this:

Our lecturers

Gary Byrne, Neil Lemon, Helena Crismani, Vanessa Kelly, Danielle Soda, Simon Gauci, Pete Dwan, Lindsay Haines, Tony Pickering and Steve Brown

Our helpers and fundraisers

Helen Gauci, Iris Montfort, Jane Billing, Jon Holloway, Caren Pickering, John Wood, Paul Dolan and Ken Eckersley

Get in touch today to discuss a booking at your establishment or how you might like to contribute to our drug education programmes – all actions and efforts, large or small, are welcome. We look forward to your interest, help or support as we enter our next successful 40 years!

Best wishes for 2021,

Lucy Skirrow
Director

"Yes, my thoughts did change after this session. We now have more information to make an informed choice and decision. I now know about the risks with drugs and alcohol."

London Pupil

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"Informative and interesting with a few laughs!"

Yorkshire Pupil

"I enjoyed the talk. Our speaker was Vanessa and she delivered a captivating presentation that was very informative."

Birmingham Pupil

"I realised how important it is to address these issues with pupils before they go off to secondary school."

Teacher

"It was really good. Very informative, because it was personal, the information was more believable. I realised that I didn't understand what I thought I knew already. If anyone was in trouble, I think I'd be able to help them and support them."

Manchester Pupil



"I thought it was really useful because the speaker himself was experienced enough to tell this subject to us."

Hampshire



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"It brought home to me that there are greater things in life that bring a better night than alcohol. I also realise that alcohol is a more dangerous and harmful drug than I thought."

Wiltshire Pupil

"It made me want to help others, especially my friends to realise the seriousness of drugs, especially the side effects."

Sussex Pupil

"It was educational and interesting. I won't try any of them, yes my thoughts did change after the talk, it gave an impact on using drugs."

Sussex Pupil

GIVE YOUTH THE TRUTH AND GIVE THEM A TOMORROW

For drug education bookings:

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