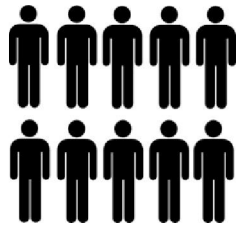


UNISCE

2017 Strategic Plan

PEOPLE



We are the voice of people who use drugs in Ireland

PARTNERSHIPS



We know we are stronger when we work together

POLICY



We make sure the rules work for you

POTENTIAL



We do our jobs well and always think of new ways of working

PRINCIPLES



We treat all people equally and help others to do the same

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OVERVIEW

UISCE is aware of the need to constantly renew and regenerate our priorities to be responsive to the needs of people who use drugs. The use of drugs and the people who use them are an ever changing landscape. The influence of new psychoactive substances is evolving and with the recent amendments to the Misuse of Drugs act, the number people who identify as people who use drugs is growing.

UISCE undertakes outreach to engage with the community to identify trends and issues from a broad range of people who use drugs. We share this information where decisions are made that impact the lives of people who use drugs to ensure their voice is included in the development of policy and programs. UISCE is aligned with the National Drug strategy and makes sure that the centrality of engagement in the strategy is made actual through our involvement.

In a survey among people who inject drugs in public places undertaken by UISCE from December 2016 to January 2017 undertaken by UISCE, 86.7% identified heroin as the primary drug used.

A report from the Health Service Executive (2017) Health service performance report August/September 2016 says “As of 31st August 2016, there were 9,652 patients receiving treatment for opiate use (excluding prisons).”

For this reason, UISCE’s focus is on the group of people who have the least opportunity to have their voice heard. This means, we actively seek out people who are currently injecting on the streets, many of whom identify as homeless.

UISCE acknowledge many people in this group identify as poly drug users and will continue to support any person seeking representation.

UISCE aims in all communication and activities to be mindful of the stigma associated with the use of drugs and works to reduce the impact of stigma on the community of people who use drugs.



VISION

A world where people who use drugs are treated with equality and respect by all people and have a voice where decisions impacting their life are made.

MISSION

We provide an independent representative voice for people who use drugs and work towards protecting their civil liberties and human rights.

PURPOSE

In 2017, UISCE will be driven by the goal of ending the need for people to inject on the streets

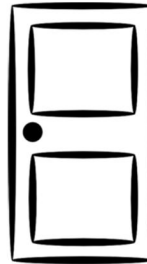
UISCE has identified three strategic goals to work towards in 2017

- ✓ **Build Capacity to be an effective independent voice, an organisation led by people who use drugs**
- ✓ **Advocate for improved services for people who use drugs**
- ✓ **Develop and establish an organisational structure for UISCE for stability and growth**

UISCE will continue to operate with three pillars



Outreach Officer



Community Development



Coordinator

DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS

Where we've come from

- ✓ UISCE is The Union for Improved Services, Communication and Education for people who use drugs. Starting as a service user group around 1990 and later becoming an independent organisation, we are funded by NICDATF
- ✓ UISCE is currently the representative voice of people who use drugs for the National Drug Strategy Steering Group, Safe Injecting Facility Expert Group and Naloxone Quality Advisory Group.
- ✓ We represent the community of people who use drugs on multiple Regional and Local Drug and Alcohol Taskforce structures.

Where we're going

- ✓ UISCE is working to position itself as the peak body for people who use drugs and associated services
- ✓ UISCE aims to be accepted as the legitimate "voice" or representative of the sector evidenced by requests for media comment and inclusion in government consultations. We want to develop codes of conduct and ethics, conduct industry-focused lobbying, and be endorsers of mandatory industry training.
- ✓ UISCE will continue to engage with a diverse population of the community of people who use drugs and provide support to agencies working with this group to ensure better outcomes

What do we do next

- ✓ To meet these goals UISCE must focus on achieving an adequate level of resourcing. This includes funding, staff and technology
- ✓ UISCE will continue to ensure constant engagement with people who use drugs to ensure their voice is reflected in an accurate and valid manner
- ✓ UISCE will focus on ending the need for people to inject on the streets
- ✓ UISCE will ensure a flow of information which feeds from people who use drugs directly to decision makers then to a service delivery level

ACTIONS

Goal	Objective	Action
1. Build Capacity to be an effective independent voice, an organisation led by people who use drugs	People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Constant engagement with the diverse community of people who use drugs (PWUD) ✓ Build Volunteer numbers ✓ Measure volunteer numbers and hours ✓ Measure the number of people who use drugs that come to UISCE ✓ Develop and implement engagement measurement tool demonstrating diversity of PWUD represented (gender, age group, living situation etc)
	Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Include people who use drugs in all activities ✓ People who use drugs partner with UISCE to volunteer to undertake outreach and contribute to Brass Munkie (BM) to support the community ✓ Collect and collate outreach statistics ✓ Increase BM Submissions
	Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide direct comment from the community of people who use drugs to inform policy development ✓ Identification of emerging trends to support actions of the National Drug Strategy (NDS)
	Possibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Build capacity of the community of people who use drugs to have full knowledge of human rights and appropriate methods of addressing issues ✓ Build profile to be recognised as the voice of people who use drugs in Ireland ✓ Publish 4 x issues of BM focused on human rights. Share details of outcomes of engagement with the community of people who use drugs through BM and outreach ✓ Enable individuals to undertake self advocacy ✓ Increase social media presence and actively engage with media.
	Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A world where people who use drugs are treated with equality and respect by all people and have a voice where decisions affecting their life are made. ✓ Maintain highest ethical standards in alignment with the INPUD manifesto for people who use drugs and the vision of UISCE at all times

Goal	Objective	Action
2. Advocate for improved services for people who use drugs	People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify and build relationships with agencies, business and Government departments which make decisions that impact the lives of people who use drugs ✓ Ongoing identification and participation in relevant networking opportunities and working groups
	Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengthen relationships with agencies, business and Government departments which make decisions that impact the lives of people who use drugs ✓ Support NDS by sharing information on harm reduction with the community of people who use drugs
	Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ As per NDS, ensure membership and participation in in local, regional and national decision making structures and networks to facilitate inclusion of people who use drugs in the design, planning and development of services and policies. ✓ Support agencies providing services to people who use drugs by identifying and providing solutions to obstacles with the goal of better treatment outcomes. ✓ Provide a voice at policy level for people who use drugs to inform evidence based development and the validity of any proposal.
	Possibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase resourcing to effectively meet the goals of UISCE.
	Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A world where people who use drugs are treated with equality and respect by all people and have a voice where decisions effecting their life are made. ✓ Maintain highest standards recommended in Governance Code and alignment with the vision of UISCE at all times.

Goal	Objective	Action
3. Develop and establish an organisational structure for UISCE for stability and growth	People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff and volunteers to ensure we do our jobs well to benefit the people we represent ✓ Undertake thorough inductions with all staff and volunteers.
	Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Instigate new and support ongoing research into best practice in the sector by partnering with academic organisations and individuals.
	Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure all UISCE's internal policies are relevant and practiced. ✓ Develop new policies to address issues faced by people who use drugs. ✓ Annual Review of policies and procedures.
	Possibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase resourcing to effectively represent people who use drugs. ✓ Expand UISCE's model to different regions of the country.
	Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A world where people who use drugs are treated with equality and respect by all people and have a voice where decisions effecting their life are made.