

# Dance till dawn safely

*A code of practice on health and safety at dance venues*

LONDON DRUG POLICY FORUM

Published December 1996

*The London Drug Policy Forum is currently working with the Home Office on producing updated and revised best practice guidance on clubs and venues. It is hoped that this will be available by the end of 2001. This document quotes figures known in 1996. For up to date statistics and research, log on to [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk)*

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## **Note**

The London Drug Policy Forum is currently working with the Home Office and Release on producing updated and revised best practice guidance for clubs and other dance venues. It is hoped that this will be available by the end of the year.

This document was produced in December 1996. It was primarily designed as information for licensees in London, but the guidelines are best practice for any dance event.

Always check with your local authority and/or police to make sure you are fully aware of local policies.

## **Foreword**

Drug use amongst young people is on the increase. Almost every recent survey indicates that more young people are taking a wider range of drugs than ever before. Concern has focused on the use of dance drugs such as ecstasy and on the tragic deaths of a number of young people. Recreational or experimental drug use can have grave dangers.

There have been other factors which may have contributed to their deaths such as lack of drinking water, a hot environment or lack of adequate information about drugs. The London Drug Policy Forum and the Association of London Government believe that by working with licensing authorities, club owners and managers, event promoters, the police and drug agencies, we can greatly reduce the risk to young people at dance events.

In no way do we condone drug use and everything must be done to reduce the availability and the attraction of drugs to young people. Despite all our efforts, some young people will continue to use drugs and we must aim to provide as safe an environment as possible.

Some club owners may believe that because their clubs do not tolerate drug dealing, measures to reduce the risks of drug taking are unnecessary. We would counter this argument by pointing out the impossibility of making any club 100% drug free. Even if dealing is eradicated club goers may still take drugs before they arrive and may still experience drug-related problems. More generally, the recommendations in this Code of Good Practice will improve health and safety irrespective of whether drugs are used.

We, therefore, urge all licensing authorities and licensees to work together to find ways of making clubs safe places for young people to enjoy themselves. One of the most effective ways would

be for all London local authorities to establish a registration scheme for door supervisors. This would certainly go a long way to ensure that door supervisors are the right people for the job and are properly trained.

We trust that you find this document helpful. In the meantime, we positively welcome your evaluation of it. We intend to formally review this document in 1998 to assess its effectiveness. If you have any comments or any examples of good practice please contact the London Drug Policy Forum.

**Peter Rigby CBE JP**

*Chairman, London Drug Policy Forum*

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*Chair; Social Services and Health Committee  
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## Why a code of practice?

### Purpose of the code of good practice

The aim of this code of good practice is to safeguard, as far as possible, the health and safety of club goers irrespective of the type of event they are attending. This code of good practice not to be imposed rigidly on all dance clubs. For some clubs, in particular small venues it will not be financially viable for them to implement all the recommendations. It is important therefore, for licensing authorities to interpret these guidelines flexibly in co-operation with club owners with due consideration to the type of dance event being organised.

The code of good practice will also have positive spin-offs and go a long way to improve the general health and safety of dance clubs where sustained dancing takes place. We hope that it will also further improve relations between club owners, promoters and managers with statutory agencies.

The purpose of this document is to provide licensing authorities and licensees with a clear and succinct guide to the sort of measures which can be implemented in order to maximise the health and safety of club-goers. Some licensing authorities may wish to introduce new licensing conditions in order to reduce the likelihood of drug-related casualties in dance clubs. However, this code of good practice should not be seen as a definitive guide or an absolute guarantee of avoiding ecstasy-related casualties. Unfortunately tragedies may occur in spite of all the efforts of licensees and licensing authorities.

### The London context

London is, without doubt the entertainment capital of Britain. In any one week there are almost 200 licensed dance events according to Lime Out, London's major listings guide. Added to this are a handful of unlicensed events each week.

The number of different events is overwhelming. They cater to the needs of different ages, different tastes in music and different trends and fashions. Over the past eight years a significant number of clubs have become associated with the use of ecstasy (MDMA), MDA, MDEA, amphetamines and LSD -referred to in this publication as dance drugs. Fashions and trends change, as does the jargon and street language associated with club culture. This is by no means a definitive list, but currently clubs which define themselves as House, Hard House, Acid House, Drum 'n' Bass, Jungle, Garage, Techno, Trance and Rave may be associated with the use of dance drugs.

Whatever the trends it is unlikely that the use of illicit drugs will become disassociated with young people and clubs.

Another feature which is unique to London, is the sheer number of licensing authorities covering the capital. All dance events require a licence which is granted by the local licensing authority of which there are 33 in London. All are bound by the same legislation but all are able to impose additional licensing conditions in order to safeguard the health and safety of the club goers and the community at large. London is also unique in that boroughs have the statutory power to establish registration schemes for door supervisors. This power is used to ensure door supervisors are properly trained and do not have convictions which would render them unsuitable for the role. The Association of London Government and the London Drug Policy Forum strongly recommend that all boroughs exercise this power.

### Dance, drugs and youth culture

The on-going, high profile media coverage of drug use gives the impression that the link between dance culture and drugs is a new development. It is important, however, to put current trends into a wider context.

Drugs have been associated with music and youth culture for many decades. The most consistent and abiding drug choices for young people when going out to enjoy themselves are alcohol and tobacco. Additionally, alcohol can be a major source of violence, intimidation and harassment in social settings such as dance events. Licensees are reminded of their responsibilities under the Licensing Act 1964 in this respect. In terms of sudden death, alcohol is also the most lethal leading to approximately 150 deaths a year.

Illicit drugs and other stimulants change according to fashions, fads and availability. What is different now, however, is the sheer scale of illicit drug misuse and the extent to which it has become enmeshed in dance and youth culture. It is estimated that up to one million ecstasy tablets are sold each week in Britain. Almost all of these will be taken in the context of dancing and entertainment.

According to the report of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology *Common Illegal Drugs and Their Effects*, published in May 1996, between 250,000 and 800,000 young people have tried ecstasy at least once. The report goes on to estimate that over the past 5 years there may have been as many as 50-100 sudden deaths associated with ecstasy use. It is almost impossible to estimate the amount of serious injury and permanent health impairment

associated with ecstasy since its long-term effects are not known and emergency admissions related to ecstasy use are not always explicit within statistics. It is likely that there are serious risks associated with the use of ecstasy and other dance drugs.

Ecstasy is the slang term for MDMA or methylenedioxymethamphetamine to give it its full scientific name. It has become associated with dancing and entertainment for many young people. The majority of deaths associated with dance drugs have been caused by acute hypothermia, more commonly known as heat stroke. Other deaths have been caused by brain damage brought about by excessive water consumption, liver failure and heart failure. Almost all deaths could have been prevented. Many people at dance events will take a combination of drugs such as MDMA, MDA, MDEA, amphetamines, alcohol, cocaine and cannabis. Combining different drugs has additional health risks.

While everything possible should be done to deter young people from taking drugs it is unrealistic to expect that this can be completely achieved. It is important, therefore, for local authorities, club owners and club goers themselves to do as much as possible to ensure health and safety at dance events. In this connection licensees are reminded of their responsibilities under health and safety legislation.

The majority of ecstasy related deaths have been due to acute heat stroke. Heat stroke, in most cases, has not been caused by ecstasy use in isolation but is due to a combination of four environmental factors:

- The action of ecstasy causes body temperature to rise significantly.
- Non-stop dancing in clubs for several hours adds to already elevated body temperature.
- Inadequate intake of water or other non-alcoholic drinks further exacerbates dehydration and interferes with the body's ability to cool itself.
- Badly ventilated and overly hot venues do not allow dancers the opportunity to cool down to safe levels.

In addition the mixing of alcohol and other illicit drugs with ecstasy can exacerbate the onset of hypothermia.

## **The role of licensing authorities and licensees**

The safety of club goers is of paramount importance. Licensing authorities, club owners, promoters and managers can work together to minimise the risks of death and injury associated with ecstasy and other dance drugs. They can have a major impact in five areas:

- Security -doing as much as possible to ensure that drugs are not available at dance events.
- Environmental factors -ensuring that venues are adequately ventilated, that there is an unrestricted and free supply of cold drinking water, to provide an area in which club goers can cool down and receive advice and information on safer drug use.
- Staff training -ensuring that all staff are adequately trained to distinguish between drunkenness, paranoia, general illness and to recognise the signs of drug use -in particular heat stroke so they are able to take prompt action and alert properly trained professionals.
- Multi-agency liaison -all agencies in particular the police, local authorities, club owners and managers and drug agencies should, wherever possible, work together to provide club goers with a safe environment in which to enjoy themselves.
- Drug information and advice -whatever measures licensing authorities and club owners take to reduce drugs in clubs, some club-goers will nevertheless take drugs. In this case they should be provided with clear and accurate information and advice on the steps that they can take to keep themselves safe. This information should be given by trained staff from drug agencies.

Finally, this report recognises that clubs and dance events fulfil a vital role in giving young people the chance to enjoy themselves. By working together we can minimise the risks associated with the dance scene. We do not want to stop people enjoying themselves. We simply want to reduce the risks.

# Code Of Good Practice For Safety At Dance Events

## Environmental factors

### 1 Prevention Of Overcrowding

1.1 The maximum overall capacity of a venue which should be stated on the licence must not be exceeded. Not only is it bad practice but it would be a breach of licence conditions.

1.2 Proven methods of recording the number of customers entering the venue are by means of an electronic clocking system, a 'clicker', a till, or by means of the sale of a finite number of tickets. It is recommended that staff operating any counting mechanism inform the person in charge when 75% capacity is reached, *It is also necessary to record the number of people leaving the venue during the evening.*

1.3 When a guest list is in operation, or when VIP passes are issued, the number of tickets available to the public must be adjusted accordingly in order to keep the number of occupants within the accommodation limit.

1.4 In London most accommodation limits exclude staff it is important that licensees keep records of the number of staff on duty on a particular evening including paid staff, paramedics and volunteers brought in to give first aid and/or drugs advice and information as this information may be requested by police or Council officers.

1.5 In addition to complying with the overall accommodation limit licensees should take care to ensure that localised overcrowding does not occur. This can happen when some areas prove more popular than others. Care should be taken to ensure that thoroughfares, stairways and landings do not become congregational areas, In addition the quieter, cooler areas must not be allowed to become overcrowded as the point of these areas will be lost. (see para 4.1 for details),

1.6 To assist in reducing overcrowding, licensing authorities are recommended to calculate an accommodation limit; which is based on floor area available, using the density formula of 0.5m<sup>2</sup> per person.

### 2 Air Conditioning And Ventilation

2.1 Controlling ambient temperatures and humidity in venues used for such events is of paramount importance for the comfort and safety of club goers.

2.2 Means of ventilation must be appropriate to the type of venue and event. All systems must

be in full working order and in operation at all times during events,

2.3 Ideally ventilation systems should be supplemented by sufficient air conditioning to maintain ambient temperatures at a reasonable level. All air conditioning systems must be fully functional-

2.4 It is extremely difficult to define 'reasonable level' especially as there is no health and safety legislation stipulating a maximum acceptable room temperature. The licensee, however, must take this issue seriously and introduce further means of temperature control if the conditions start becoming uncomfortable.

### 3 Availability Of Drinking Water

3.1 There must be free and unrestricted access to cold drinking water at all times. In this connection it is recommended that drinking water taps or fountains are installed. Drinking water supplies should never be shut off. *There must also be easy access to chilled soft drinks and bottled water at the bar.*

3.2 At all dance venues, it is strongly recommended that drinking water and ice be available free of charge. It is good practice to inform patrons of this availability by way of signs. Some clubs provide paper cups and jugs of water on the bar.

3.3 It is recommended that plastic water bottles with replaceable lids are available to allow them to be refilled and resealed once mineral water has been bought and consumed.

3.4 Any problems with the drinking water supply to a venue must be remedied before opening for business. Any problems arising during the dance event should be remedied as soon as possible.

### 4 Further Measures To Combat Overheating

4.1 Wherever practicable, space should be set aside for dancers to rest and cool down. Such areas should be cooler and quieter than the main dance area(s). Adequate seating must also be provided. Door supervisors should have a low-key presence in the area to help prevent overcrowding and to maintain security. If overcrowding does occur it may be an indication of severe overheating and that action needs to be taken.

4.2 At some smaller venues there may not be enough space available to allow for the provision of a separate cooler, quieter area. In these cases adequate provision must be made by way of fixed

seating and additional air conditioning, to help prevent dancers from overheating.

4.3 Any additional measures to avoid an overly hot environment in such circumstances such as increased mechanical ventilation would be advantageous. Opening doors is unlikely to be acceptable because of the serious risk of disturbance to local residents.

4.4 The MC or DJ has a key role to play when heat is severe and existing ventilation/air conditioning systems are unable to cope with the conditions. He/she should have a clear view of the dance floor and should vary the type of music according to the mood and state of the participants. For example, if the dancers are getting over excited or exhausted it may be advisable to play quieter or slower music. He/she may also encourage dancers to take a break and keep cool. This is especially important at venues without a separate cooler, quieter area. It must be noted, however, that an abrupt and unexplained cessation of music or a sudden change of tempo could inflame an already highly charged situation

4.5 Some patrons may wish to undress to a degree which would contravene the established dress code in order to keep cool. Preventing such undressing would be irresponsible because of the danger of overheating, when it takes place it may indicate that the patrons are excessively hot and that action needs to be taken.

4.6 Drug workers encourage clubbers to dress appropriately for prolonged dancing, both for their comfort and safety. Similarly, it is advisable for club goers to take an extra layer of clothing with them for the journey home - especially when stepping from an extremely hot club into the early hours of a freezing cold winter's morning. It is imperative, therefore, to provide a safe, secure and efficient cloakroom service with enough staff to prevent huge queues forming. Ideally such a service should be free with the cost included in the admission price.

## **5 Other Environmental Factors**

5.1 Security of all fixtures and fittings must be thoroughly checked by the licensee or his approved representative before an event. Any signs of disrepair which could put staff or patrons at risk must be immediately remedied before the premises open to the public.

5.2 Access to potentially dangerous dance sites such as the tops of speakers or balcony rails must be prevented by identifying and discouraging access to such sites.

5.3 Glass collectors must be employed to prevent the accumulation of drinking vessels on

floors, shelves and any other area where there could be a hazard

5.4 All thoroughfares and dance floors must remain free from obstructions at all times.

5.5 Fixtures and fittings must be able to withstand conditions such as damp caused by the build up of condensation. This is likely to occur at dance events.

5.6 All electrical systems must be safe and regularly checked.

5.7 In London the licensing authority will almost certainly require special consent to be obtained for the use of special effects such as strobe lights, lasers and smoke machines

5.8 As excessively loud noise can cause hearing damage, advice should be sought from the Environmental Health Department and/or a sound consultant. In many cases a sound limiter should be installed on the amplification system.

## **Club security**

### **6 Door Supervisors**

6.1 It is important to stress, once again, the need for all London local authorities to adopt registration schemes to ensure that door supervisors are appropriate for the job and well trained. Door supervisors are vital in reducing the supply of drugs in clubs, managing crowd safety, assisting those who may be experiencing drug related problems and liaising with management, first aiders, drug workers and the police.

6.2 If registered door supervisors are employed they must wear their identification badge at all times. The badges must also be clearly visible. At premises where door supervisors are not required to be registered it is strongly recommended that such staff wear an identification badge with a photograph, name and serial number. If a private security firm is used the name of that firm should be indicated on the badge. This will enable management to identify the person concerned should any problems occur. It will almost certainly not be appropriate for the identification badge to bear the full name of the door supervisors. This is because it could put staff at risk from people who, for example, have been refused entry. Door supervisors of both sexes should be employed.

6.3 Those hiring outside security personnel should only deal with reputable firms. It is good practice for security firms to ensure that all personnel receive appropriate training. See the section on staff training for more details.

6.4 Door supervisors should employ good queue management techniques at all times, both from the point of view of common decency, customer relations and that of safety. Crushing, which can lead to injury, and queue-jumping, which can arouse hostility and violence, must be prevented.

6.5 Door supervisors should promote a smooth throughput of people, minimising a build-up of people immediately inside the venue. See the section on environmental factors for more details.

6.6 Door supervisor work involves clearly a degree of supervisory responsibility. They must patrol a venue regularly and be easily located in case of an emergency. Uniforms worn by door supervisors should enable them to be easily distinguishable from patrons.

6.7 Door supervisors must co-operate and communicate effectively with those responsible for first aid and any other workers or volunteers present to give advice and information.

### **7 General Security Measures**

7.1 Licensees should formulate an appropriate policy on searching in 1 consultation with their licensing authority and the police. This policy should include a complaints procedure. The greater the co-operation between security firms, licensees and the police, the better. Security can greatly reduce the number of people using or dealing drugs on the premises. Larger events will call for close liaison between these bodies in order to anticipate potential incidents, Details will vary from one event to the next and it is important to be flexible in implementing the recommendations set out below.

7.2 Searches -Where appropriate, everyone entering the event, including those on the guest list, should be liable to a search of outer clothing, pockets and bags, to be carried out by a door supervisor of the same sex. Ideally, searches should be complemented by the use of metal detectors to deter the carrying of weapons, and to reassure customers. Management are reminded of their right to refuse entry.

7.3 It is important to remember that door supervisors do not have the right to insist on performing a body search. Consent must be established -possibly by a prominently placed notice at the entrance, Door supervisors must not perform strip searches under any circumstances and could be charged with assault if they attempted to do so.

7.4 Drugs or offensive weapons that are seized must immediately be handed over to the licensee for storage in a secure place until they can be handed over to the police. It is strongly recommended that all seizures are witnessed by the management and are recorded in an incident book. Management should also have written guidance on how to record incidents. This is particularly useful if door supervisors are required to give a statement to the police or give evidence in court.

7.5 Club policy -Notices should be strategically and prominently placed at ~ the entrance to the venue informing customers that the police will be ~ informed in the event of individuals being found in possession of controlled substances or offensive weapons. Any policy on non entry and ejection must also be on display to reduce the likelihood of arguments with staff.

7.6 CCTV -The purpose of CCTV is to deter and detect any drug dealing and violence, and to assist crowd safety and security. It is not to intrude on the privacy of club goers. CCTV can be useful, particularly for the surveillance of the entrance to the club. CCTV may deter or detect

the sale of drugs inside the venue. Where used, care must be taken to minimise the discomfort that the presence of CCTV might present to the vast majority of clubbers who are neither selling drugs nor causing a disturbance.

7.7 At larger venues staff should be equipped with radio communication systems for added security.

7.8 Regular patrols of the surrounding area by door supervisors and security staff are advisable for extra security and to reassure local residents. It is important that there is adequate liaison with the police and that door supervisors do not attempt to take over the role of the police in this respect.

7.9 It is good practice to have an attendant in the toilets to discourage an unacceptable build up of people and to discourage the selling and the use of drugs in this area. Where no attendant is present, toilets should be regularly, patrolled by door supervisors. It is, however, important to respect personal privacy. It is recommended that guidelines be formulated by the licensee for attendants which includes when it is appropriate for staff to try to enter a cubicle and when assistance should be sought.

7.10 liaison with the police -Licensees should communicate and co-operate as much as possible with the police and have an agreed policy on what should happen in the event of disturbances and persons being found possessing or selling drugs. Subject to the views of the police it may be useful to warn customers by way of notices, that covert police surveillance may be in operation.

7.11 Records must be kept of any accidents or other incidents that occur such as a person being ejected from the venue. Records must contain as much detail as possible and be kept for reference purposes for at least a year. There should be an agreed format for recording information including the name and registration number of the door supervisor. All security staff, in particular door supervisors, should be aware of how to report incidents.

7.12 The licensee must be aware of which door supervisors are on duty on any particular night. This information must be recorded in case individuals need to be identified for any reason.

7.13 The licensee or a duty manager must be present at all times during an event and readily contactable by the police,

## Training and information

### 8 Staff Training

8.1 It is imperative that licensees, managers and club promoters are fully conversant in all aspects of the safe and efficient running of a venue. They must receive up to date training on the regulations covering licensing, first aid, fire precautions, environmental health issues, health and safety issues, legal requirements and drugs awareness.

8.2 In London most Councils will require door supervisors to be registered with them so that they are adequately trained. We strongly recommend that all boroughs establish as a matter of urgency, a registration scheme. It is, in any event, good practice for the licensee to ensure that door supervisors are trained by an organisation recognised by the licensing authority, in the following topics:

- First Aid -a recognised course run by the St John's Ambulance, Red Cross or other recognised agencies and this must cover all relevant issues including recognising the signs of drug use and the appropriate action to be taken
- Fire precautions and other emergencies relevant to the venue in question
- Health and safety considerations
- Criminal law
- Dealing with aggression
- Relevant licensing conditions
- Customer care
- Equal opportunities and anti-discrimination
- Environmental issues
- Drugs awareness
- Crowd management
- Personal and social conduct.

8.3 A minimum requirement is that the licensee ensures that all in-house staff, including door supervisors, are fully aware of the following:

- Relevant licensing conditions
- All relevant company policies (policies must be drawn up if none exist)

- Procedures for evacuation the premises in an emergency
- The position of all fire exits and escape routes
- The need to ensure that all exits are fully functional and free from obstructions in case of fire or other emergency
- The location and means of operation of all fire fighting equipment
- The procedures that are in place for dealing efficiently and responsibly with a fire or other emergency
- The need to inform the licensees of all incidents/accidents which take place on the premises and to log all details for future reference in an accident/incident book
- The need to be alert to the possibility of illness or drug induced distress in patrons and how to deal effectively and responsibly with such an occurrence; in particular recognising heat exhaustion

8.4 Sufficient club employees should be trained as first aiders to allow a minimum of two such individuals to be on the premises at all times during opening hours. If possible, an accessible first aid room should be provided. Staff training, however, is not always an appropriate alternative to the presence of experienced professional practitioners. See the section on medical and first aid provision (below).

## **9 Medical And First Aid Provision**

It is important that all licensed dance events are covered by adequate first aiders.

9.1 In some cases it may be desirable to supplement first aiders with appropriate additional paramedic cover. This will especially be the case with very large events or with events which go on for a long time or all night. If in doubt licensees should consult their licensing authority and ambulance service. A statement regarding the role and responsibilities of paramedics is set out in the further information section of this document.

9.2 The term paramedic has led to some confusion. The London Ambulance Service defines proficiency in approval of the Secretary of State for Health. Care must be taken to avoid employing the services of untrained individuals and unregistered, unqualified private paramedics. If in doubt contact the London Ambulance Service for advice.

9.3 It is essential that those responsible for first aid are aware of the kinds of drug related problems they may have to tackle; in particular, dehydration, heatstroke, anxiety and paranoia and that they are able to deal with them appropriately.

9.4 It is recommended that, where possible, those responsible for first aid and those responsible for drugs advice jointly brief door supervisors prior to an event about the kinds of problems to look out for.

9.5 If someone who has been taken ill would benefit from fresh air, first aiders or drug workers should seek agreement from management to leave and re-enter the building.

## **10 Drugs Information And Advice**

10.1 In spite of vigilant security measures some club goers will continue to use drugs in clubs or take drugs before they arrive. It is vital, therefore, to inform club goers about how to reduce the risks associated with drug use. For example, providing free water has more impact if users are aware of the importance of drinking and the hazards associated with dehydration and water intoxication. Although it is clearly not a legal requirement of licensees to act as educators it is responsible and therefore highly recommended, to make accurate and appropriate drugs advice and information available to club goers at dance events. It is also recommended that drugs information is made available at pre-club meeting places, such as wine bars, cafes and pubs.

10.2 It is recommended that drugs awareness messages are incorporated into flyers advertising dance events. Basic information about the importance of drinking water, cooling down and looking after friends should be included. Messages should be as clear and succinct as possible without oversimplifying information. For example, overly simplistic messages about drinking water may have led some ecstasy users to believe that water is an antidote to ecstasy rather than a means of avoiding dehydration and heatstroke.

10.3 It is vital that the precise role of drugs advisers is agreed before an event. For example, no such workers should be expected to carry out first aid duties unless they are suitably trained and it has been agreed previously that this is to be their role. It is good practice to employ experienced drugs advisers to disseminate appropriate information and advice, particularly at large or popular events. Drug workers need to be fully aware of appropriate behaviour at dance events. They also need to know all relevant club policies and practices.

10.4 The quieter, cooler area is a sensible place for drugs advice and information to be given. When drugs advisers are present they should be accessible, yet their presence must be low key and unobtrusive. Drugs information must not be made available without first consulting with an appropriate drugs agency. Information should not arouse undue anxiety or be forced on club goers, Contact an established drug agency for further help and advice.

10.5 It is good practice to disseminate credible and accurate drugs information through the club mailing list, if it has one. Once again, it is imperative to seek advice from an established drugs service, the London Drug Policy Forum or DrugScope before doing so. Information on the availability of drugs services in London can be obtained from your local Drug Action Team, from the DrugScope or the London Drug Policy Forum. For additional agencies please see the further information section (or go to [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk) and click on Find a Drug Service or Links.

#### **Publications**

*Guidelines For Good Practice At Dance Events* - 1995 Scottish Drugs Forum.

*Safer Dancing: Guidelines For Good Practice At Dance Parties And Nightclubs* - 1994 Dr Russell Newcombe, 3D Research Bureau

*Safer Dancing: Minimum Code Of Conduct For Dance Parties And Clubs* - 1992 Media And Public Information Section, Manchester City Council

*Towards A Model Standard For Dance Clubs* - 1996 London Borough Of Hackney Environmental Protection Division

*Door Supervisors' Training Syllabus For The Guidance Of Persons Providing Training* 1995 Entertainments Licensing Working Party And Metropolitan Police Service

*Discos: Code Of Practice* - 1992 Entertainments Licensing Working Party

*Guide To Health Safety And Welfare At Pop Concerts And Similar Events* 1993 Health And Safety Commission/ Home Office /Scottish Office

**Please note: this list reflects the publications available in 1996 when this document was first produced. See organisations list for more up to date information.**

#### **Organisations**

The following organisations are useful contacts for advice on all aspects of club management.

##### **Association of London Government**

Tel: 020 222 7799

##### **DrugScope**

Tel: 020 7928 1211

##### **Institute for Health and Care Development**

Tel: 0117 929 1029

##### **London Ambulance Service**

Tel: 020 7928 0333

##### **London Drug Policy Forum**

020 7332 3084

##### **Release-Dance Outreach**

Tel: 020 7749 4053

##### **National Association of Licensed Door Supervisors**

Tel: 01376 517 137

##### **The Event Suppliers Association**

Tel: 01235 772207

#### **London Ambulance Service statement on paramedics**

Recent amendments to the Parenteral Administration of Prescription Only Medicines Order, details in Amendment No.2 (S.1 1992 No.2957) enable a person who holds a Certificate of Proficiency in Ambulance Paramedic Skills issued by or with approval of the Secretary of State, to administer parentally, on their own initiative, certain Prescription Only Medicines for immediate and necessary treatment of sick or injured persons. Currently the accepted Institute for Health and Care Development (IHCD) Certificate of Proficiency is the Certificate in Extended/Paramedic Ambulance Aid.

These changes allow Ambulance Services via their employing Authority to lawfully obtain Prescription Only Medicines and to lawfully allow Paramedics to administer them.

This essentially means that only staff who have a current Paramedic Certificate issued by the IHCD may administer drugs or infusion fluids detailed within the POMs Order.

The current situation requires that in order to obtain the IHCD Paramedic Certificate candidates must undertake a recognised Training Programme at an Approved Ambulance Paramedic Training Centre. This Training Programme must be

reinforced with the Prescribed Refresher and Recertification Schedules. In addition the current criteria for selection to attend the pre-entry examinations are that candidates must be full time employees of an NHS Ambulance Service and must hold the National Proficiency Certificate in Basic Ambulance Aid and have at least 12 months post-qualification experience. They must also be engaged in front line A&E duties at the time of application.

Paramedic skills include:

- Endotracheal intubation
- Intravenous cannulation and infusion
- Defibrillation
- Administration of selected approved drugs.

## **Acknowledgments**

Thanks are due to Lifeline in Manchester and to Dr. Russell Newcombe for providing background information. Special thanks are also due to the Scottish Drug Forum who produced "Guidelines for Good Practice at Dance Events" upon which this document is based.

The London Drug Policy Forum also acknowledge, with many thanks, those who served on the working party which produced this document. They are Brian Blake, City of Westminster, Mark Brangwyn and Jain Lemom of the Association of London Government, David Chambers, Adviser to the ALG, Jenny Douse, London Borough of Hackney, Tim Everett, London Borough of Sutton, Eden Kilgallen and John Wilson of London Borough of Camden, Siwan Lloyd-Hayward of Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Health Commission and Alyson Morley, London Drug Policy Forum who chaired the working party.

We are grateful to John Glaze and his colleagues at the Home Office Action Against Drugs Unit for making the document available nationally.

## **The consultation process**

The working party responsible for drawing up the code of good practice recognised how important it was for as many individuals and organisations as possible to be able to comment on the draft document. Over 300 individuals were invited to give a response. In addition the covering letter made clear that a wider circulation of the document was welcomed. Below is a list of all

known individuals and organisations included in the consultation process.

6 Hamilton Place- Manager  
Jonty Adderley -Muzik Magazine  
ALG/LDPF Safer Dancing Working Group (5)  
Bob Angus -Metropolis Music  
Association of London Government  
Association of Metropolitan Authorities  
Bar Rumba -Manager  
Roger Barratt -Starhire  
Melvin Benn -Mean Fiddler Festival Office  
John Barton -National Outdoor Events Association  
Burlington Bertie- Manager  
Cafe Boheme -Manager  
Camden Intoxicating Liquor Licensees Association  
Kevin Camp -Top Guard Security  
Richard Carey  
Caves de Rois -Manager  
Central Drug Prevention Unit  
Central Drugs Co-ordination Unit  
Chairs and Co-ordinators of Drug Action Teams (London) (50)  
Chief Environmental Health Officers -all London authorities (33)  
Tom Clements -Specialized Security  
Crazy Horse -Manager  
Crew 2000 (Glasgow)  
Dance Information Network (72)  
Fred Davis  
Nick De Luca- Director of Public Affairs BEDA  
Deals -Manager  
Escape from Samsara  
Falcon Security  
Keith Ferguson -Production Services Association  
Grays Inn of London -Manager  
Steve Hadrell -Womad  
Mark Hamilton -Rock Steady Security  
Health and Safety Executive  
Health Education Authority  
Highgate Magistrates Court

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Hippodrome- Manager	Plastic People -Manager
Home Office -Action Against Drugs Unit (formerly C5)	Vince Power -Mean Fiddler
Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence	Prince Edward Theatre -Manager
King's Cross Community Safety Initiative	RAW Club –Manager
Korkers- Manager	Red Cross
La Reash-Manager	Release
Leisure Lounge -Manager	Jay Pender -World Dance Parties
Mike Lethby -Live Magazine	Restless Native
Roger Lewis -City Hospital, Edinburgh	Riki -Tic -Manager
Licensing Officers -all London authorities (33)	DA Rimmer -First Leisure Corporation Ronnie Scott's - Manager Salsa! -Manager
Lifeline (Manchester)	Scottish Drugs Forum Roger Sharpe
Richard Limb -Symonds Travers Morgan	Edwin Shirley -3 Mills Island Studio
Limelight- Manager	South London Drug Prevention Team Dr Martin Spence
Local Government Drugs Forum	St John's Ambulance Service
London Ambulance Service	Standing Conference on Drug Abuse
London District Surveyors Association	Steve Sutherland -New Musical Express The Camden Palace - Manager
London Fire and Civil Defence Authority	The Electric Ballroom -Manager The Forum -Manager Tokyo Joe -Manager
London Licensing Co-ordinating Committee	Mick Upton -Showsec
Lupo-Manager	Ian Whitehorn -Now Promotions Steve Wride -Licensing Solutions
Magistrates Association	Jim Winchip -The Event Services Association (TESA)
Marios Georgallides	World Dance -Daz Jamison
Mars- Manager	Zebra Bar- Manager
Megadog Productions	
Penny Melior (formerly Festival Welfare Services)	
Members of and Advisers to the London Drug Policy Forum (41 )	
Metropolitan Police Service	
Midland Concert Promotions	
Moonlighting- Manager	
Simon Moran -SJM	
Robin Morley -Zap Productions	
Mundo-Manager	
National Youth Agency	
North East London Drug Prevention Team	
North West London Drug Prevention Team	
Other World & Pagan	
Oxfords- Manager	
Parkers -Manager	
James Palumbo -Ministry of Sound	