

## **DrugScope policy framework**

**DrugScope's policy work is informed by our commitment to reduce the health, social and economic harms to individuals, communities, and society that are associated with the use of drugs.**

**DrugScope is rigorous in examining and acknowledging the underpinning assumptions of policy and the evidence base for its implementation**

**DrugScope celebrates diversity and is proactive in rejecting discriminatory practice.**

**DrugScope seeks to build consensus where possible and to work collaboratively and creatively with others in the arena of un-coerced collective action around shared interests, purposes and values.**

**DrugScope is committed to working to promote the right to health, education, housing, employment, and freedom of expression and movement of every individual.**

**DrugScope** policy positions are built upon three platforms:

**Stakeholder consultation** - Throughout 2007 we have spoken directly with over 600 individuals affected by or impacting on drug strategy in the UK. Between March and May we held nine regional consultation events in London, Exeter, Birmingham, Sheffield, Newcastle, Manchester, Liverpool, Norwich and Cardiff. Participants included drug users, their families, treatment workers, police officers, teachers, community representatives, scientists and academics, youth workers, senior managers, young people, probation officers, custody staff from

police stations and the secure estate, customs officials, doctors, nurses and local government officers. Over 150 people attended our conference in Cambridge in July. We held a further three stakeholder meetings in London and Birmingham in September 2007.

**Expert Scrutiny** – Over the past 12 months we have hosted a number of expert groups – both individually and in partnership with other organisations - in order to scrutinise specific areas of drug policy. These have included - the long-term future and purpose of drug strategy, young people's policy, localism and national structures and partnerships.

**Evidence Base - DrugScope** has the largest library of drug information in the world. This comprehensive English language collection includes monographs, journals, and reports from the UK, Europe and around the world, spanning more than four decades. Uniquely in the UK, the library also holds a wealth of 'Grey literature' and many hard to find items, such as local reports, educational materials and policy documents. **DrugScope** both in its current form and in its previous incarnation as the ISDD (Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence) works closely with the research community to distil and disseminate the most impactful and relevant findings from academics, service providers and government bodies.

Through our work with our stakeholders, our many publications, our magazine *Druglink* and our website, we have created opportunities for debate and discussion about strategy with many – both inside and outside the traditional drugs field. It is this debate and discussion, the sifting of the evidence and the regular ongoing and extensive nature of our contact with our stakeholders that reinforces our unique overview of UK drugs strategy. It is from this perspective and in collaboration with our unique constituency that we offer the following response to this consultation.