

Druglink

New decade, new drugs, new challenges

Just before Christmas, three new substances were controlled – Spice, BZP and GBL. The first two were largely distributed through the web - increasingly prominent as a means of buying wholesale and retail quantities of drugs and exchanging information.

Another new drug, mephedrone has been capturing the headlines of late and in this issue we bring you our exclusive features on the mephedrone market and its impact in rural areas.

For those experiencing problems with GBL, a new clinic has opened at the Maudsley Hospital in south London: those troubled by the effects of ketamine are less fortunate. At a recent seminar held in London, users complained of lack of support, only to be told by drugs workers that there was no money to treat them.

New statistics released by the NTA in December confirmed that compared with alcohol and cannabis, very few young people were being treated for heroin or crack addiction. All of which suggests that the drug landscape of the UK is becoming more complex with new drugs appearing more regularly and users of drugs previously regarded as 'party drugs' like GBL and ketamine, now actually in need of services.

Meanwhile we still have over 300,000 people with heroin and/or crack problems who are likely to find themselves caught between the rock of spending restraints and the hard place of recovery politics.

2010 is the Year of Tiger, so hang on tight for a wild ride with best wishes from all the staff at DrugScope, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

Harry Shapiro,
DrugScope's Director
of Communications
and Information



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Druglink is for all those with a professional or occupational interest in drug problems and responses to them – policymakers and researchers, health workers, teachers and other educators, social workers and counsellors, probation and police officers, and drug workers.

DrugScope is the UK's leading independent centre of expertise on drugs and the national membership organisation for those working to reduce drug harms. Our aim is to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. We provide quality drug information, promote effective responses to drug taking, undertake research, advise on policy-making, encourage informed debate and speak for our members working on the ground.

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