

# Module information

## Drugs and Harm Reduction

### [Overview](#)

withyou



THE CPD STANDARDS OFFICE  
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[www.cpdstandards.com](http://www.cpdstandards.com)

Does your organisation or staff want to learn more about drugs and harm reduction, why people use drugs and how best to support those who do? If yes, we've put together some useful information and resources for anyone who wants to build a good foundation of knowledge on the most common drugs people use, the legality surrounding them, the associated risks and best harm reduction practices to help keep people safe. This resource has been created by experts in the field - a collaboration between substance use and mental health charity With You, and drug checking and harm reduction charity The Loop.

Everyone's experience of drugs is different - all of us have some experience of drugs in one form or another, whether that's illicit drugs, legal drugs, prescription drugs or over-the-counter medications. Regardless of what type of drug you've used or haven't used, in today's society you can't avoid them.

Some of the stories we hear can be positive, but there's an overwhelming bias towards negative headlines and an emphasis on the destructive nature of drugs - this isn't necessarily helpful for people who take drugs, especially those who want to seek or who are seeking support.

By tackling this bias through our actions and interactions with people who take drugs, we can help reduce stigma and better help those who want support. Wherever you are, whatever your role, we can all make a difference.

### What is included?

- e-learning module - 120-180 mins - depending on learner processing time. This is split into 7 completable sections.
- additional resources - approx 60 hours

For further information,  
please contact:  
[admin@wearetheloop.org](mailto:admin@wearetheloop.org)

### What will learners get out of it?

After completing this module, they'll be able to:

- identify different types of drugs and why people might take them
- recognise the potential risks associated with different types of drugs
- provide harm reduction information and advice relevant to different drugs and scenarios
- explain the legal classifications of drugs and the penalties attached in relation to UK law
- help someone in need - should the situation arise - using drug informed first aid
- signpost people who might need further advice or support

# Further information

## Drugs and Harm Reduction



### Who is this learning for?

Regardless of the sector someone works in, the interactions and interventions they provide should be informed by up-to-date, non-stigmatised research and evidence. That way, the individual they work with has the best chance of achieving whatever they set out to achieve.

- This learning is suitable for anyone that works with people who use drugs, this could include: health and social care staff, festival and night-time economy staff, emergency services, criminal justice staff, educators, charity and public sector staff in frontline roles, and more.

The learning is aimed primarily at those who are new to information on drugs and harm reduction but also works extremely well as a knowledge refresher for those who are more experienced.

### Who are The Loop?

The Loop is the UK's first dedicated drug-checking charity, with years of experience delivering drug testing, welfare, and harm reduction services. Founded by Professor Fiona Measham, a government drugs advisor since 2008, we provide a range of evidence-based, research-led services to a variety of stakeholders, maximising our impact. We have worked closely with universities, including delivering training to students and staff. We are recognised leaders in communicating drug harms through alerts based on trends identified in our testing services, which will also ensure that the content of this module is accurate, current and relevant.

### Who are WithYou?

WithYou is a leading UK drug, alcohol and mental health charity and the largest third-sector provider of drug and alcohol services in Scotland. Each year we work with more than 100,000 people in over 120 locations across England and Scotland, providing a free and confidential service without judgement to people experiencing issues with drugs, alcohol, or mental health.



### Further reading:

[Trends in drug use - https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/edr/trends-developments/2022\\_en](https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/edr/trends-developments/2022_en)

[Drug-related death - https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/death-related-to-drug-poisoning-in-england-and-wales/2021-registrations](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/death-related-to-drug-poisoning-in-england-and-wales/2021-registrations)

[Publication featuring work from The Loop about drug checking - https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2752-6739/vol/23/iss/3](https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2752-6739/vol/23/iss/3)

[Further article on expansion of drug checking - https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/DHS-01-2022-0005/full/html](https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/DHS-01-2022-0005/full/html)