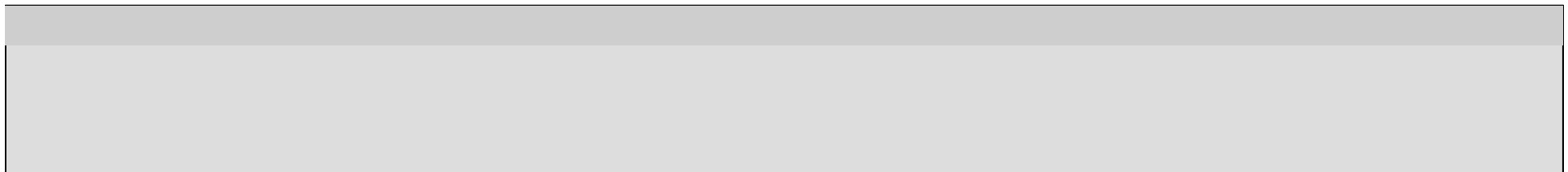




**Accommodating
Injecting Drug
Users**

**Presentation by
Bruce Diggins
Regional Manager**



Rough Sleepers Intervention Team:

On average 20 – 30 rough sleepers daily

Nightshelter:

Accommodation for 10 rough sleepers

1997-99:

70 – 80% of rough sleepers reported alcohol as primary substance of abuse

2000/01:

70 – 80% of rough sleepers reported injecting drug use primary problem

Finding accommodation in hostels was not a problem.
Maintaining it was

Almost zero tolerance of injecting drug use across
accommodation providers

Great confusion over Wintercomfort and legal position.
Many staff feared going to prison

The Wallich Clifford decided to review Drugs Policy to
accommodate IDUs within the law

2001 - New policy introduced:

All accommodation projects allow use

Exception:

Nightshelter

Clients sign up to agreement to abide by Drugs Policy

Over 60% of clients accessing hostel (25 bed spaces) are IDUs

Approximately 80% of clients in Community Houses (32 bed spaces for those with a Dual Diagnosis) are IDUs

2003: Still seeing the outcomes of unsafe injecting practices: sores, abscesses, infections, etc.

Clients still engaging in unsafe practices:
sharing equipment, use of non-sterile equipment, substitute paraphernalia, etc.

Distribution of Paraphernalia:

Legal Position: “those engaged in treatment services”
Cardiff Community Safety Partnership

2004: Began distribution of paraphernalia

What we have found:

- Clients honest with staff about use
 - Staff able to provide better targeted harm reduction advice and referral into treatment services
 - No evictions for unsafe practices, dealing or breaches of policy
 - No problems with local community
 - Reduction in instances of injecting related injuries
-

What we have found:

- All clients engage with staff to address personal development
 - Some clients involved in training, education and voluntary work
 - Some have accessed permanent accommodation, others supported accommodation
 - Over 60% of clients have entered treatment while accommodated
-



Thank you for your time

Do you have any questions?

**Wallich Clifford Community
Central Services
Severn House
1 Severn Road
Cardiff
CF11 9EB**

**Tel: 029 2066 8464
Fax: 029 2066 8461**

www.wallichclifford.com