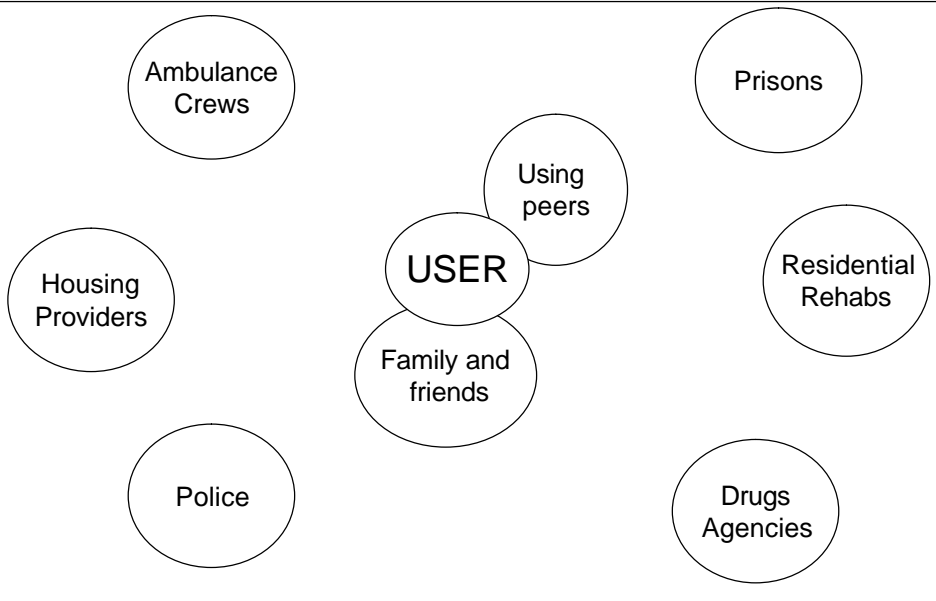


Preventing Drug Deaths The Role of Housing Providers

Drug Deaths Prevention Strategies



Homelessness Increases Risk



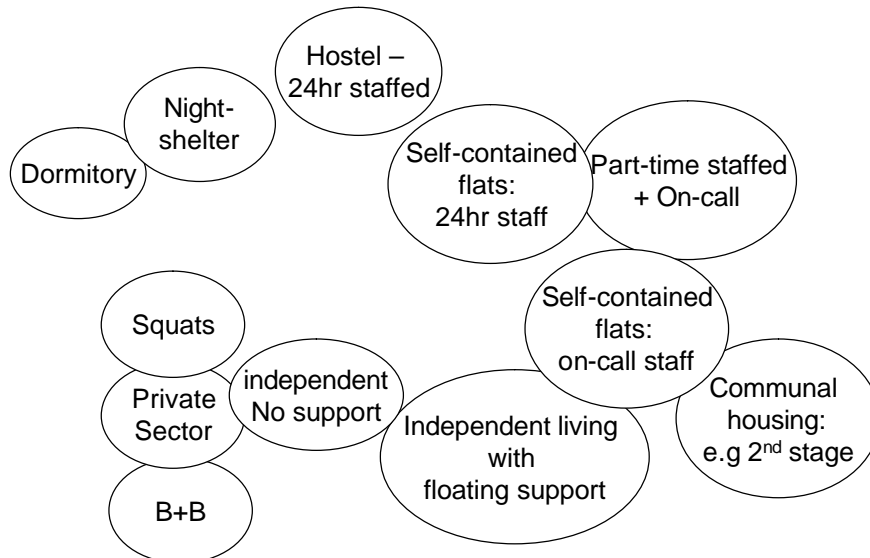
- No privacy
- Use tends to be rushed
- Use in isolated settings
- Less hygiene
- Poor diet
- Mental health problems
- Less stable scoring and using patterns
- Reduced access to health-care,
- Less likely to have adequate supply of clean equipment
- Increased risk of assault, arrest and criminalisation
- Risks of hypothermia, chest infections & impaired immune system

Bad Housing Increases Risk



- Bad housing fails to assess drug usage
- Bad housing puts vulnerable, high risk users in to isolated housing
- Bad housing has policy which increases risk
- Bad housing has no strategy for responding to critical episodes
- At the moment, bad housing is the norm for problematic drug users, not the exception

Types of Housing



Policy maximising risk



- Admission criteria discourages disclosure
- No use on site
- Paraphernalia not allowed
- Confiscation of paraphernalia
- Immediate eviction for use
- Automatic police involvement
- Staff not trained

Good Policy and Practice Reduces Risk



Bronze:

- Staff have had OD training
- Basic risk assessment takes place
- OD protocol in place
- Housing type reflects risk assessment
- Policy does not discourage or penalise residents from seeking help during OD
- Building has been risk-assessed for dealing with ODs

Silver:

- As above, plus
- Safe management of use on site, rather than displacement
- OD training sessions for residents

Gold:

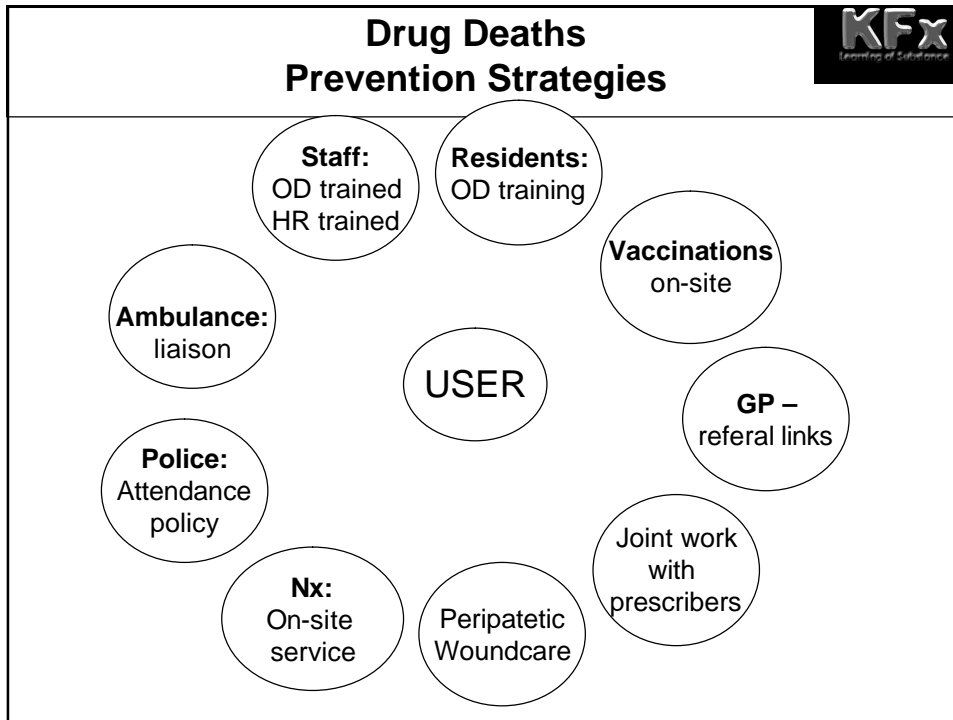
- As above, plus
- Comprehensive assessment of risk factors, with matched interventions
- Call-out protocol in place with emergency services
- Policy allows service users to have company when using

Types of Death



Immediate	overdose acute poisoning heart failure convulsions
Medium term	septicaemia pulmonary embolism wound infections complications from surgery
Long term	liver damage death arising from BBVs (e.g. HIV) cancers
Semi-direct	Suicide - may be direct (from drug) or indirect (e.g. MH)
Indirect:	neglect, murder, assaults etc

Drug Deaths Prevention Strategies



Key Challenges and Next Steps



- **Fear/misunderstanding of the law**
- **Policy discussions – peer-accompanied use**
- **Development of Drug Consumption Rooms**
- **Funding constraints**
- **Nimbyism**

Further Information and Guidance



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www.drugsandhousing.co.uk