

LONDON CHEMSEX CONFERENCE

Deepening a shared understanding of the chemsex landscape in the Capital, exploring the impact on individuals and services, and strengthening the health and harm reduction response.



Venue	Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, Kings Cross, London WC1H 9JE
Date	Friday 7 th June 2024
Time	10:00 – 16:00hrs, refreshments from 9:30hrs
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Understand the chemsex landscape, including prevalence.– Understand how chemsex harms impact health service provision.– Explore practical solutions with a focus on harm reduction.– Draw up priorities to strengthen the Capital's response.
What to expect	A day of knowledge and learning with practitioners and specialists from the fields of chemsex, harm reduction, and sexual health; and colleagues from the voluntary, statutory, and governmental sectors including, NHS, UKHSA, OHID, MPS and LGBTQ+ community. Printed and online resources will be available throughout the day.
What you will be doing	You will hear from practitioners in treatment, harm reduction, health and monitoring groups, and those with lived experience. You will have opportunities to participate in task orientated discussions in small groups.

AGENDA

9:30 10:00 **Refreshments and networking**

10:00 10:15 **Welcome, introduction and format**

10:15 10:30 **Defining chemsex and prevalence**

10:30 11:00 **An overview of the chemsex landscape in the Capital today including some lived experiences.**

Five short, interconnected, presentations.

- The hook-up and chemsex scene (an overview)
- Problematic chemsex (inc. mental, sexual, health wellbeing issues)
- Navigating harm reduction, abstinence, and sober sex
- Sexual assault, rape, and murder
- Navigating (statutory service) support and care pathways

11:00 11:15 **Quick Fire Q&A**

11:15 11:30 **Break with refreshments**

11:30 12:15 **Understanding the chemsex landscape through service provision:**
Five short, interconnected, presentations.

- London Ambulance Service
- London Emergency Department
- Antidote @ London Friend
- LGBT+ Independent Advisory Group
- Gay Men's Health Collective

12:15 12:30 **What harm reduction has learnt from chemsex.**
Exchange Supplies

12:30 12:45 **Quick Fire Q&A**

12:45 13:45 **Lunch and networking**

13:45 14:30 **Group work, part 1: questions and challenges from the chemsex community, and agencies providing support/ harm reduction.**

1. Chemsex harm reduction reduces the impact on NHS and statutory service resources in the Capital. How might this be best achieved?
2. How does one actively encourage those engaging in chemsex to call 999 for an ambulance (eg: overdoses) if they distrust or fear the police?
3. How might agencies and services be encouraged to collect and share data to inform an evidence-based approach to chemsex in the Capital?
4. It is widely understood problematic chemsex users cannot get drug treatment before they receive mental health support. Mental health services do not provide support before users have stopped using chems. How might this be addressed?
5. "We're not going to end new HIV infections by 2030 or eliminate HCV by 2025 without tackling chemsex." Discuss.
6. What steps can be taken to meet the needs of underserved populations in the Capital within the context of chemsex?

14:30 14:45 **Break with refreshments**

14:45 15:30 **Group work, part 2: building on the previous session, explore practical steps to address questions and challenges 1-6.**

15:30 16:00 **Quick fire Q&A**

Final thoughts, wrap up and close.