Written evidence from Professor John Marsden

14th February 2019

I am a practitioner psychologist and clinical researcher with expertise in the development and evaluation of interventions for substance use disorder.

I have a background in the treatment of opioid use disorder (heroin), but a focus of my recent work has been on cocaine use disorder. There is conferrable unmet need in the UK, with an emergent population of young cocaine users, an association with violence, increasing cocaine-related deaths, and – I believe – very poorly equipped treatment services to attract and help people affected by this devastating, but treatable addiction.

In the past 3 years, I have been developing a novel psychological intervention with psychologist colleagues in South London. This aims to help people with cocaine use disorder gain cognitive control over the urge to use the drug. We have taken some important steps towards a new treatment approach and have encouraging findings.

The protocol and findings cited below are both open-access.

I would be keen to discuss this work and our continuing clinical research programme on cocaine use and opioid use disorder if of interest.

Sincerely,
Professor John Marsden
King's College London and South London & Maudsley NHS Trust

Protocol

Findings