SUIT
SERVICE USER INVOLVEMENT TEAM

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

February 2007



Formation of small team to undertake drug service user involvement activity, to include running workshops, consultations and sitting on interview panels

2008 - 2012

It became apparent through consultation that there were unmet needs of the drug using community, although at a strategic level there were high aspirations

next stage

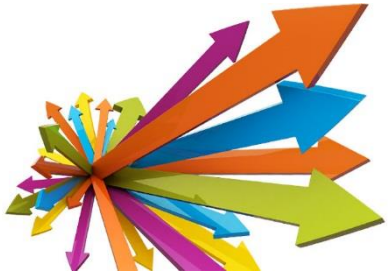
2008 to Present



After becoming completely peer led, the idea formulated to train those with lived experience of addiction (and associated areas) to do more than offer individuals a chance to have their voices heard, but also to meet needs by delivering interventions in order to increase the quality of our peers' lives.

All SUIT members have previously experienced a wide range of consequences related to addiction.

Lisbon Addictions 2017 Abstract (SUIT, UK)



2007 Onwards

SUIT then went about raising its profile and building pathways of support for individuals. This was achieved by listening to, and acting upon drug users' needs and requirements.

A method of bespoke data collation and analysis was developed in order to demonstrate the work of SUIT, in supporting our peers.



In **2015/16**, SUIT demonstrated the following -:

- With 2.4% of local drug/alcohol budget the following was achieved -:
  - Supported 953 individuals
  - Delivered 3290 one to one sessions
  - Provided 4266 interventions, spanning 63 areas of need (*housing, education, employment, mental health, crisis, advocacy etc.)*
  - Attended 134 meeting and events
  - Each intervention cost £30.59
  - Worked in collaboration with 522 agencies, companies & resources

SUIT have also supported 152 individuals in gaining employment, in the past five years.



The SUIT annual budget is less than the combined cost of incarcerating an adult male in prison for a year.



SUIT have continued to build a strong strategic foothold at a local, regional, national and international level. This involvement is not just in regards to drugs and alcohol, but includes wider societal regimes that impact upon those that are vulnerable. Addiction cannot be seen in isolation.

Homelessness	Education
Mental Health	Family
Criminal Justice	Youth
Employment	Immigration

This model and methodology puts harm reduction & empowerment at its centre. We take those very people whom society deem as being the 'problem' and demonstrate that with the right support, leadership, aspirations and commitment that positive change can occur. This is at an individual, political and societal level.

Produced by - Sunny Dhadley FRSA CMgR
SUIT Manager
www.suiteam.com

Vienna NGO Committee On Drugs

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