



The Loop Drug Checking Service receives Purple Guide grant to expand its training offer to the events industry

The Loop has received a grant from the Events Industry Forum (EIF) which will enable the delivery of more training on harm reduction and drug awareness to people working in all areas of the outdoor events industry.

The Loop is a charity with expertise in harm reduction, developed through its drug checking and testing services, and associated research and evidence building. The charity, through the expertise of its professional volunteers and experience of delivering services, is ideally placed to inform and support those working in the events industry, and supported by the EIF, will reach wider communities and more individuals, with the joint aim to provide safer events and environments for all.

As a result of the grant, The Loop has appointed Adam Waugh as their first Training Coordinator. In his first weeks in the role, Adam has successfully recruited eight new trainers from The Loop's volunteer pool, all of whom will be ready this month, June 2023, to assist in the provision of The Loop's training across the UK. Alongside this increased resource, the grant assists in The Loop and EIF's recognition that training, whilst known to be important and desirable by event's organisers, can feel a stretch too far in relation to costs and in difficult times to breakeven. The grant therefore enables subsidy of the training costs, ensuring this is affordable to those organising and working within the events industry.

Katy Porter said: "The Loop is delighted to have received this grant from EIF, and to have welcomed Adam to The Loop staff team. We recognise the importance of harm reduction related to potential risks associated with drug use, and are pleased that more people working in the industry will be equipped with understanding and tools to assist in keeping people safe at many different kinds of events throughout the UK."

The Loop will continue to expand its offer to increase and improve harm reduction provision, including the development of drug checking services, training, and research in this area of expertise, and working closely with partners such as EIF.

To find out more about The Loop's training and discussing this for yourself, your event, and your team, please contact us training@wearetheloop.org or through our [website](#), where you can keep up to date on all of The Loop's news and activity.

Ends -

Notes to editors:

Biographies:

Adam Waugh (Training Coordinator)

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Adam has 6 years of experience working in fields to reduce the harms of alcohol and other drug use, with a focus on the night time economy. This has included managing event-based welfare and harm reduction services, through his role in the senior management team of PsyCare UK, and more recently, project managing services relating to night time economy vulnerability with Night Time Economy Solutions. In his role at Night Time Economy Solutions, Adam also managed their training programme. Adam has a MSc in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Durham University where his dissertation studied harm reduction at UK music festivals. He has been involved in the Loop since 2018, and has supported the charity in areas such as harm reduction, communications and drug alerts.

Katy Porter (CEO, The Loop)

Katy is a nurse and worked in HIV services (Mildmay Hospital), substance use treatment (South London Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, City Roads Crisis Intervention, Cranstoun Drug Services) and homelessness (Thames Reach), both as practitioner and in senior roles, as manager and director. Katy has also taken on voluntary roles related to mental health and homelessness as Governor for Camden & Islington NHS Foundation Trust, and for the past 7 years, and continuing, as Trustee/Vice Chair for Depaul UK. With extensive experience in working across health & social care services, and additionally in the role of Independent Lay Member with Partnership Southwark, Katy collaborates with a broad range of stakeholders from voluntary sector partners, to Public Health, Local Authorities, and newly formed Integrated Care Systems. Katy is committed to developing and expanding the services and reach of The Loop to ensure our drug checking service and harm reduction advice and information is accessible and available nationally.

The Loop Drug Checking Service

The Loop is the UK's first dedicated drug-checking charity, with years of experience delivering drug testing, training, and harm reduction services. Founded by Professor Fiona Measham, a government drugs advisor since 2008, The Loop provides a range of evidence-based, research-led services to a variety of stakeholders, maximising the organisation's impact. As recognised leaders in communicating drug harms through alerts based on trends identified in its testing services, this ensures the content of training is accurate, current and relevant.

Events Industry Forum

The Events Industry Forum (EIF) is a not-for-profit company which represents the interests of the UK's £36 billion outdoor events industry and publishes the Purple Guide. Membership is made up exclusively of trade bodies and similar organisations operating in the sector. It also has an Associate membership comprising representative enforcement agencies and government bodies. The Forum is committed to supporting the industry financially with funds generated from sales of the Purple Guide ring fenced to provide financial support for projects that will benefit the outdoor events industry as a whole. See www.eventsindustryforum.co.uk

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