Ana Liffey Drug Project & Addiction Research Centre TCD

A Half-Day Conference to Mark the 25th Anniversary of the Founding of Ireland's first Harm Reduction Agency - The Ana Liffey Drug Project

Harm Reduction for Problem Drug Users: 15th March 2007

Venue: Edmund Burke Theatre, Arts Building TCD

Programme

Chair: Dr Paula Mayock, Children's Research Centre TCD

2.30pm: Risk, Injecting Settings and Environmental Approaches to Harm Reduction
Keynote Speaker: Dr Tim Rhodes, Centre for Research on Drugs & Health Behaviour, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

3.30pm: Coffee Break

3.45pm: The Founding of the Ana Liffey Drug Project
Frank Brady, S.J. First Director of the Ana Liffey Drug Project

4.10pm: The Ana Liffey Drug Project: Carving out a Niche in the Middle Years
Marguerite Woods, Addiction Research Centre TCD

4.35pm: The Ana Liffey Drug Project Today
Tony Duffin, Director of the Ana Liffey Drug Project

5.00pm - 5.30pm: Plenary Discussion and Conclusion

There is no charge for attendance at this half-day conference but, so as to assist its organisers, people intending to attend are asked to confirm this by emailing:

Gloria Kearns the Administrator at the Ana Liffey Drug Project – gloria.kearns@aldp.ie

It should be noted that there is no car-parking available on the TCD campus.

See overleaf for further information on the programme and the speakers.
The Ana Liffey Drug Project

During the early-1980s, drug policy and service provision in Dublin struggled to adapt to what became known as the 'opiate epidemic', the first wave of injecting heroin use in a city previously accustomed to much less risky drug use. This adaptation was not helped by the lack of formal drug policy-making structures or by the assumption that the only legitimate health and social service interventions were those which had abstinence as their goal. It was against this background that Frank Brady and Mara de Lacy set up the Ana Liffey Drug Project in 1982, a project which introduced the concepts of 'user friendliness', 'low threshold', 'outreach' and 'peer education' to a somewhat bemused policy community. The Ana Liffey Drug Project developed close links with the Addiction Studies programme which began at the School of Social Work & Social Policy at Trinity College Dublin in 1983, and the aim of this half-day conference at TCD is to reflect on the subsequent evolution of Ana Liffey, as harm reduction policy and strategies gradually gained acceptance in this country.

It would obviously be foolish to assume that all of the contentious issues have been resolved either in Ireland or anywhere else, and there are ongoing tensions for the Ana Liffey Drug Project and for other harm reduction services which are based in city-centre locations. To provide a broader context for this debate our keynote speaker, Dr Tim Rhodes, will draw from his own empirical research on injecting drug use to argue for policy and service provision which does not focus solely on individual behaviour change, but which also accepts the need for 'safer injecting environment interventions'.

Dr Paula Mayock is Senior Research Fellow at the Children's Research Centre, TCD, and is author of *Choosers or Loosers? Influences on Young People's Choices about Drugs in Inner-City Dublin* (2000).

Dr Tim Rhodes is Reader in Public Health Sociology and Director of the Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He leads a programme of research focused on the social aspects of risk and HIV/HCV prevention associated with injecting drug use. His academic background is in qualitative methods and public health sociology. He is editor of the *International Journal of Drug Policy*.

Frank Brady is a Jesuit priest who was co-founder and the first Director of the Ana Liffey Drug Project.

Marguerite Woods is Course Director for the Diploma in Addiction Studies at TCD and a former Director of the Ana Liffey Drug Project.

Tony Duffin is the current Director of the Ana Liffey Drug Project and a former Director of Services with the Depaul Trust Ireland.