



centre for evidence based drug policy

Company Brochure 2023-24



What we do

We promote evidence based drug policy

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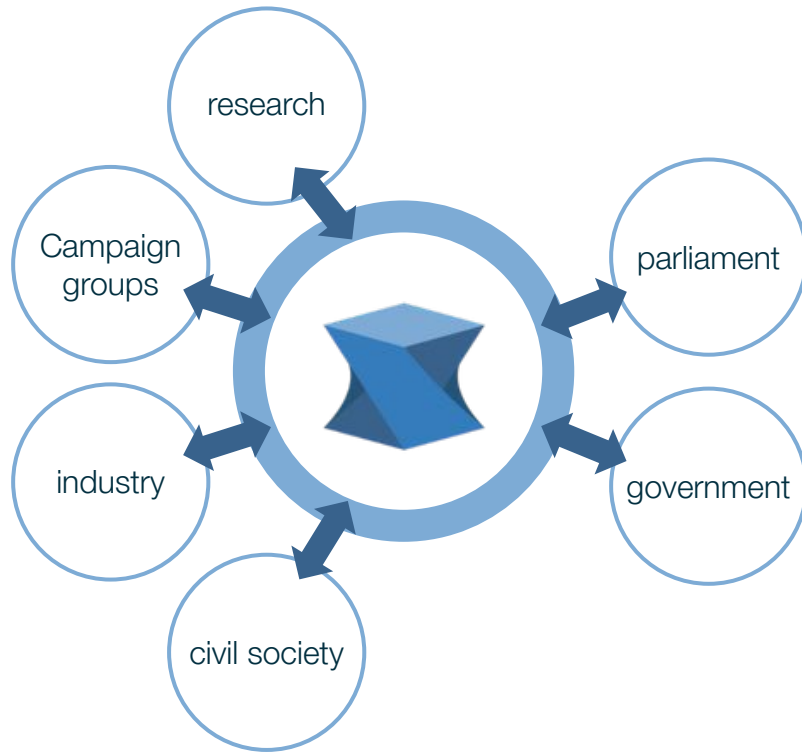
Our mission is to bring about evidence based drug policy reform to reduce harm caused by the UK's current outdated drugs policy and unlock medical and economic opportunity.

2

We provide expert policy advice & briefings to government, opposition & other UK and international decision makers. Our unique insight blends trusted, balanced evidence with political nous.

Organisational Structure

Not for profit, non-partisan, transparent structure designed to effect change.



Bridging Parliament, Government, and industry, we are uniquely placed to drive evidence based drug policy reform.

Not run for profit, free from commercial interests.

Our only purpose is to deliver evidence-based drug policy reform that results in public good. We collaborate with all stakeholders acting as a coordinator, often bringing disjointed actors together.

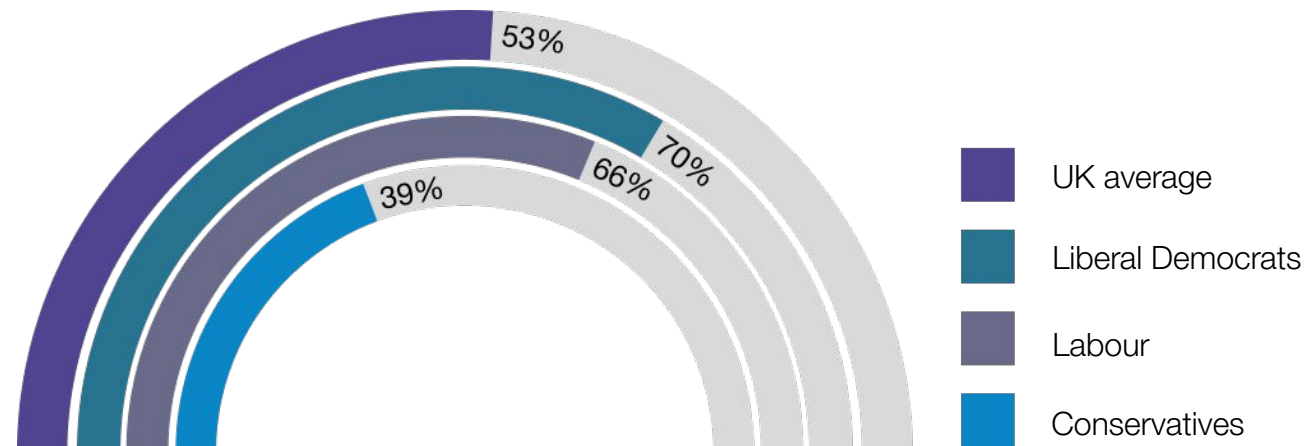
Overseen by an unremunerated Chair and a Policy Council.

Our advocates, including Parliamentarians, are all unremunerated to allow them to effectively carry the arguments for change both in Parliament and with decision makers in Government.

Our Cross Party Work

We foster cross party political ties and possess an in-depth grasp of legislative processes.

- We position ourselves as partners to MPs and other decision makers across the political spectrum. Our Patrons include MPs from all major parties.
- We provide reliable, trusted evidence to inform and improve the decision making process.
- We use our brand and strategy to target decision makers in both current Government and in the opposition.



Proportion of people who think drug use is best seen as a health issue, focused on reducing harm.

Moore A (2019). Public attitudes to drugs in the UK. CDPRG. Available at: www.cdprg.co.uk/s/Attitudinal-Survey-Report-FINAL.pdf



An Opportunity for Business and Civil Society

Your support advances UK bioscience, improves mental health treatment, and benefits the public. Investing in us drives the progress of UK bioscience and mental health treatments and contributes to a healthier, more prosperous society.

Partnering with us to helps us to employ expert researchers, communication specialists and campaign managers to support evidence based policy change.

With our subscription we offer up to 250 hours of personalised consultancy time, giving our investors access to unique expertise and knowledge.

We are an independent think-tank that follows the evidence. We do not lobby but we can provide:

- updates on our bespoke campaigns targeting specific areas of policy (e.g. drug policy governance, CBD regulation, medical cannabis or psychedelics access improvement).
- specialist support for licensing applications.
- media, events, expertise and comms support.
- our opinion on the regulatory and political viability on projects your business may wish to undertake.



Our Values

We don't just call for change, we instigate it through an evaluation of the evidence

Evidence Development & Application

- to be designed transparently on the basis of evidence reviews on the costs and benefits of a range of drug policy models;
- to be supported by robust, standardised evaluations to inform continuous policy adaptation and improvement;
- to systematically collect data on controlled drug use and outcomes across all sectors of access;

Access & Availability for Science & Medicine

- to improve safe, reliable, and affordable patient access to controlled drug medicinal products where clinically appropriate;
- to improve availability of controlled drug products for legitimate research purposes, particularly where there is high research value;

Harm Identification and mitigation

- to identify potential harms to public health, the individual and wider society;
- to mitigate identified harms through evidence-based regulations, health interventions and public education;
- to combat threats to public safety and order associated with organised crime networks;
- to protect the young and vulnerable from the harms of drug misuse and from any unintended harms caused by policy;

Sustainable Economic Growth

- to support the growth of legitimate UK industries working with controlled drugs for the public benefit;
- to meet policy goals cost-effectively and to minimise expenditure on drug control strategies that are not supported by evidence-based reviews.



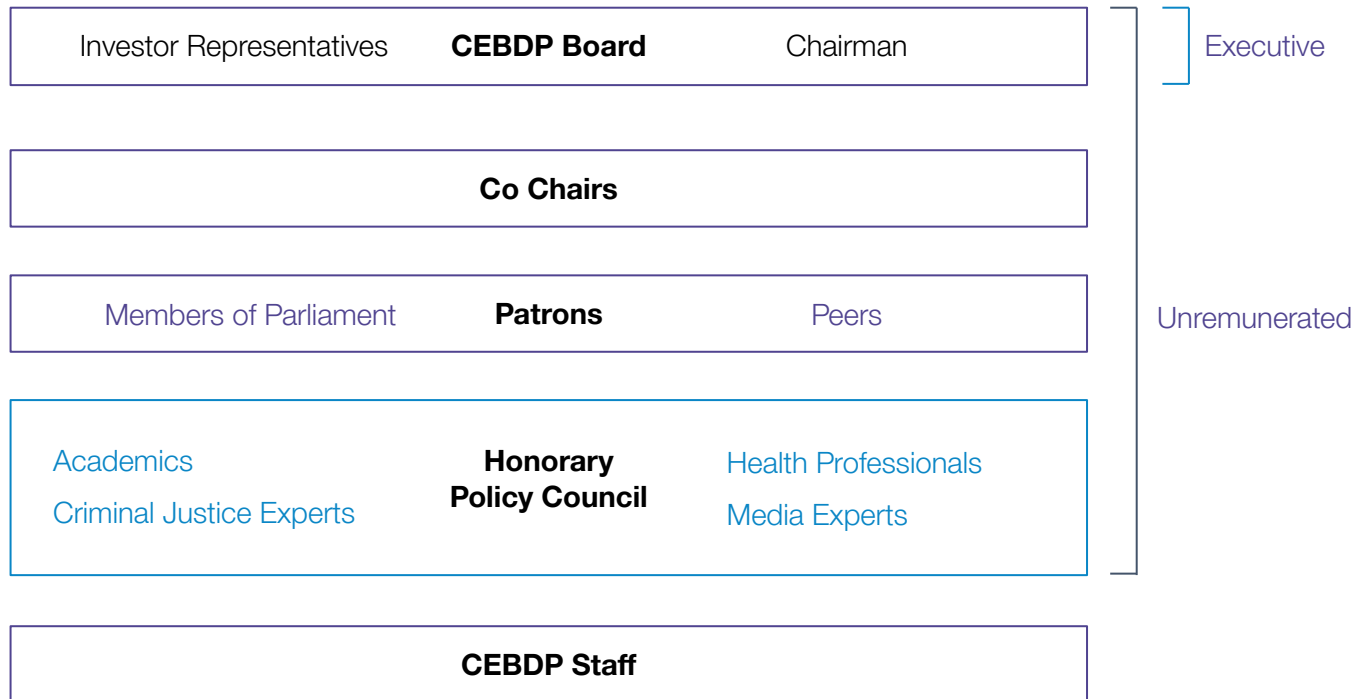
We bring together organisations and individuals from across the space, from parliament and civil society to academia, drawing on a diverse range of expertise to inform and affect change in UK drug policy.

Mike Trace (CEO of Forward Trust), David Nutt (CEO of Drug Science and Charlotte Nichols MP (Labour, Warrington), at the relaunch of the Centre for Evidence Based Policy



Company Structure and Accountability

The Centre is structured to have expert oversight at each level and includes all relevant stakeholders. Our investors also secure a seat at the table.



- We are accountable to our supporters through quarterly Subscribers' Meetings. Representatives of supporting organisations sit on our Board.
- We have an impressive Policy Council of leading experts in UK drug policy.
- We regularly draw upon the expertise of our Policy Council.
- Our co-chairs, board Chairman and Policy Council are unremunerated and have no financial interest in the company.

Co-Chairs

Our chair has a proven track record of parliamentary expertise and integrity, staunchly advocating for evidence based drug policy reform.



**Charlotte Nichols MP
(Labour, Warrington
North)**

Charlotte has been an MP since 2019 and has been a vocal advocate for innovative treatment in mental health in particular by championing the campaign for rescheduling psilocybin.



**Adam Holloway MP
(Conservative,
Gravesham)**

Adam has been an MP since 2005, and has held several ministerial positions and staunchly advocates for a public health-oriented perspective in shaping effective drug policy.

Policy Council

Our advisors are national and global leaders in healthcare, law, business, ethics, politics, and policy analysis. They ensure the quality and integrity of our work across the UK's drug policy landscape.



Shirley Cramer



Tom Lloyd



Professor Julian Savulescu



Mike Barton



Professor Sir Paul Collier



Lord Mancroft



Professor David Nutt



Dr Dan Poulter MP



Professor Mike Barnes



Miles Briggs MSP



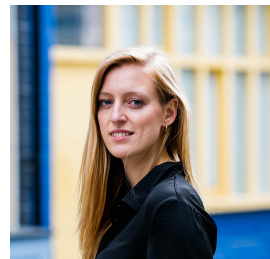
Dr Dani Gordon



Andrew Boff



Dr. Melissa Bone



Dr Julie Moltke



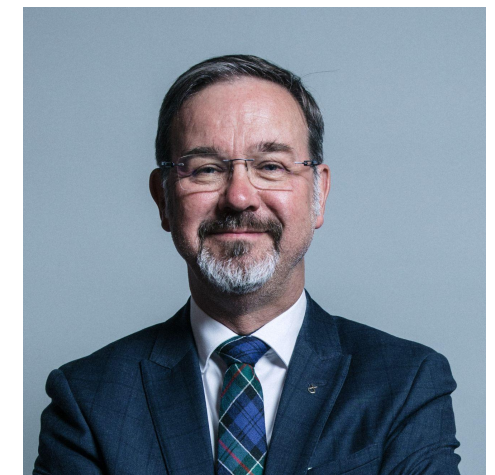
Professor Jo Neill



Professor Fiona Measham

Patrons

Our patrons help us action our work in Parliament and publicly support our call for evidence based drug policy



Dehenna Davison MP

Jeff Smith MP

Sam Tarry MP

Tommy Sheppard MP

Ronnie Cowan MP



Our Staff

Our team, with a proven track record, advocates for evidence-based drug policy reform, blending scientific and political expertise.



Alexandre Piot, Director of Research



Timmy Davis, Director of Psychedelic Policy & Regulation



Sam Lawes, Outreach & Communications Manager



Our Campaign Partners

Join us for early access to insights, reports, policymaking ideas and more



Our Supporters

Creating a knowledge and sharing hub for industry leaders

BRAINS
BIOCEUTICAL
CORP.



“The expert attention to detail that characterised [your] assistance with our licensing applications was crucial in navigating the complex UK Home Office licensing processes. We fully support their work in bringing sensible regulation to the UK which will not only deliver for businesses such as ours, but crucially for patients and individuals’ wellbeing.”

Rick Brar, Brains Bioceutical CEO.

Engaging with Political Parties

We have a track record of successful events and exhibitions at political party conferences

Speak to us about co-hosting an exhibition or event at one or more Spring or Autumn party conference in 2024.

- **Exhibition:** fund a CEBDP exhibition with shared branding, dedicated materials and stakeholder engagement
- **Reception:** co-host an appealing, well-attended reception – a chance to get your point across directly to conference delegates and to network with party members
- **Navigating conferences:** we have expertise in how to get the most from party conference, which stakeholders to reach out to, and what to look out for



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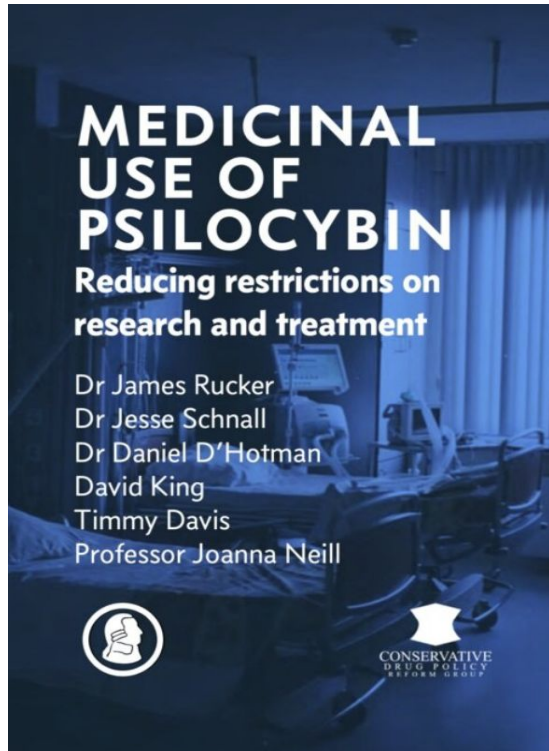


Above: Prior to our 2023 rebrand, hosting an exhibition at Conservative Party Conference 2022



Medical Psychedelics Campaign

Increasing access and reducing barriers to research



Summary:

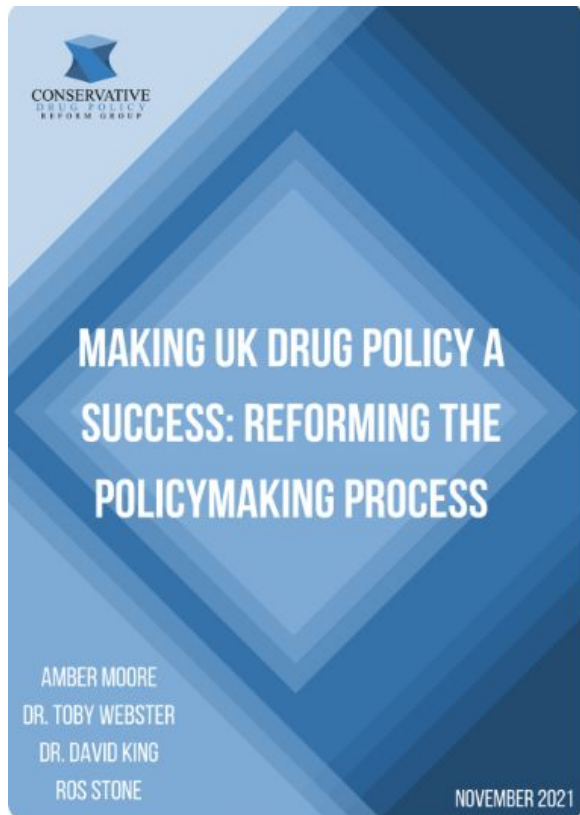
The current Schedule 1 status of psilocybin, and other promising substances such as MDMA, poses serious barriers to research and blocks patient access in the UK. The CEBDP is spearheading a campaign to reschedule psilocybin, working closely with researchers, regulators, patients and policymakers, to support mental health research and the UK life sciences industry.

Successes

- Establishing the Psilocybin Access Rights (#PAR) campaign.
- Organisation of a Back Bench Business Debate supported by 26 cross party MPs.
- Gaining the support of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
- Announcement of the ACMD's review of barriers to researching controlled drugs beyond synthetic cannabis.

Making UK Drug Policy a Success

Reducing harms and improving drug policy governance



Summary:

The report offers 23 recommendations to improve UK drug policy, addressing key areas such as problem understanding, goal-setting, policy design, costing, local commissioning, outcome monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and overall policy enhancement. The CEBDP's consultation process, which included expert interviews and roundtables on cross-cutting policies and research capacity, sought to identify better approaches for drug policymaking in the UK.

The report supports the realisation of the recommendations made by Dame Carol Black in part 2 of her independent review. Addressing the national drugs crisis will be instrumental to achieving other key government aims of drug related reducing harms.

'This is a thoughtful and powerful document. It makes great sense. I just hope it gets the attention of government that it deserves' (Prof. Mike Barnes, Chair of the Medical Cannabis Clinicians Society)

Making UK Drug Policy a Success

Reducing harms and improving drug policy governance



Summary:

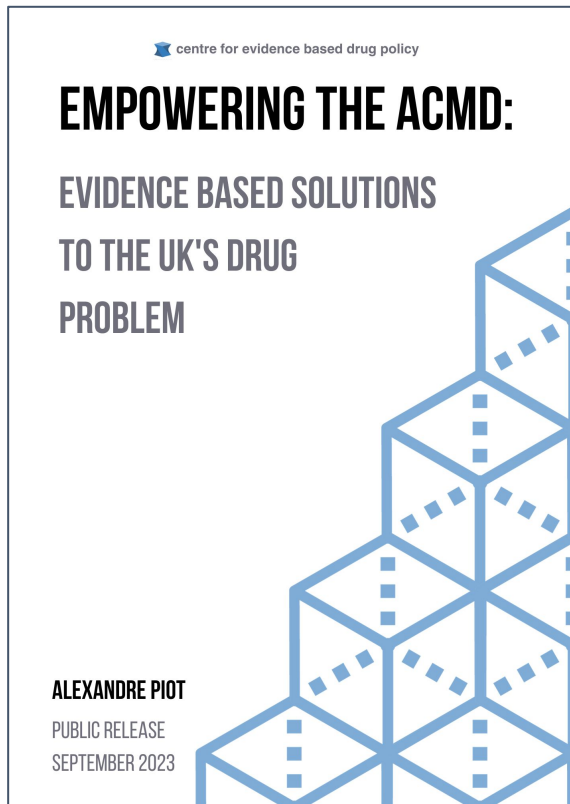
After a year of implementing the 10-year drug strategy, the government's progress review lacks thorough evaluation and leaves key issues unaddressed. Our report highlights flaws in measuring policy outcomes, citing incomplete and misleading data. We recommend improvements like reporting on the number of drug users, drug prices/purity, and precursor chemical availability to better estimate the drug market size and organized crime impact. Furthermore many of the metrics proposed by the government itself in their National Combating Drugs Outcome framework were not evaluated. These data gaps need fixing before the 2024 evaluation.

Looking forward:

The Home Office, the JCDU and the Drugs Misuse team have received copies of the report. A second revised edition will be sent to these stakeholders ahead of the next review to influence its reporting measures.

Empowering the ACMD

Increasing access and reducing barriers to research



Summary:

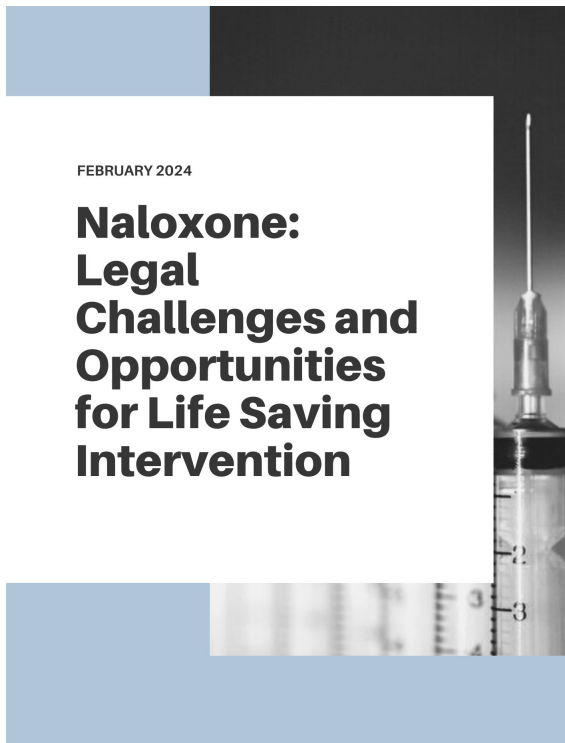
A thorough investigation into the ACMD's history reveals a troubling pattern of government dismissal of crucial advice, spanning issues like MDMA research, Naloxone availability, drug decriminalization, cannabis regulation, and nitrous oxide abuse. Frustrations among ACMD members due to resource constraints and inconsistent government application of their expert advice are highlighted in an APPG survey. Furthermore, a decade-long analysis exposes a consistent breach of the working protocol between the Home Office and the ACMD.

Solution:

After analyzing ACMD publications and engaging with stakeholders, the CEBDP suggests 12 key recommendations. These involve increased funding, improved integration of council advice into legislation, and enhanced accountability for disregarded recommendations. A dedicated campaign is in progress to implement these changes, aiming to reinstate the ACMD's status and position it as a respected source of expert solutions for reducing drug-related harms and improving the UK's treatment services.

Naloxone: Legal Challenges and Opportunities for Life Saving Intervention

Increasing access and public access to naloxone



Summary:

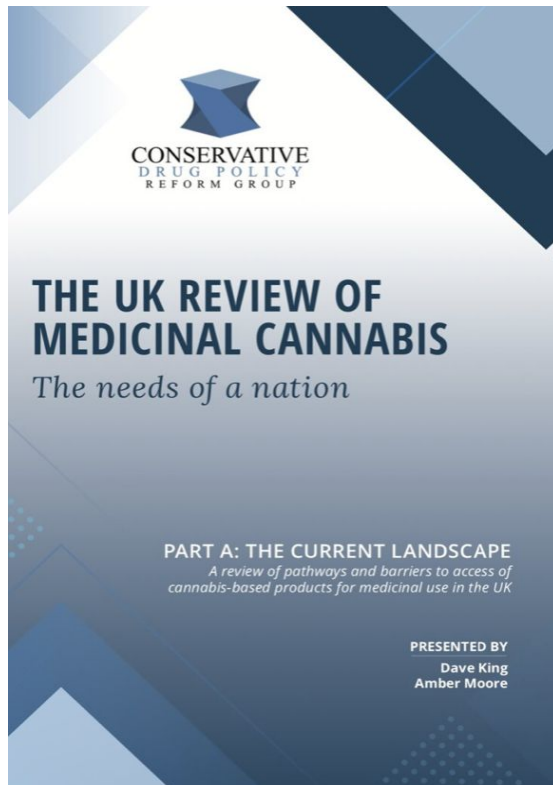
The UK faces a critical challenge with opioid-related overdoses, increasingly driven by the illicit opioid supply's contamination with potent synthetic opioids like fentanyl and nitazenes, leading to numerous overdose clusters. Naloxone is a life-saving medication which reverses opioid overdoses. Its administration is both straightforward and safe following brief training, and it is uniquely beneficial as it treats a readily identifiable condition with no potential for misuse. Despite its advantages, naloxone's current prescription-only status hinders broad public awareness and accessibility, especially to key groups outside of drug treatment services, such as family, friends, and general bystanders.

Solution:

Mirroring international successes, it's proposed that the UK make naloxone, a counter to synthetic opioids, available over the counter. Advocated is its reclassification as a Pharmacy (P) medication, a move aligning with the Government's 10-year drug strategy and potentially reducing opioid-related deaths. Should reclassification face hurdles, suggested are legislative improvements by the Department of Health and Social Care to enhance naloxone accessibility and public awareness.

Increased Access to Medicinal Cannabis

Addressing issues concerning access to medicinal cannabis in the UK



Analysing the current landscape and creating the UK's most comprehensive report.

Part A of our UK Medicinal Cannabis Review provides a comprehensive analysis of the current landscape, identifying 7 access routes for medical cannabis. Stakeholders consulted include patients, healthcare professionals, industry representatives, and government bodies. This exhaustive report outlines challenges faced by various groups, serving as a valuable resource for government, civil society, and industry.

Evidence Based Cannabinoid Licensing

Addressing issues concerning access to medicinal cannabis in the UK



Safeguarding the UK's nascent cannabinoid industry with evidence-based policy

Safeguarding the UK's emerging cannabinoid industry requires evidence-based CBD regulation. As the cornerstone of cannabinoid research and development, cannabidiol (CBD) demands a sensible regulatory framework. The Centre for Evidence-Based Drug Policy advocates for an evidence-based approach to assess the benefits and risks of isolate and full-spectrum CBD products, aiming to establish a regulatory environment free from incongruencies and arbitrary barriers for the UK CBD industry and its consumers.

As key campaigners, we successfully influenced the government's decision to establish a reasonable maximum limit for controlled phytocannabinoids in consumer CBD products.

Our wins

Presented findings of survey of **ACMD** members (past and present) to cross-party meeting of MPs in June 2023. This highlighted that the ACMD is not able to function optimally. One month later the government announced a major new recruitment drive for new ACMD members.

Removal of barriers to research: in October 2023 the Drugs Minister again wrote to the ACMD to request advice on breaking down barriers to research with controlled substances. This follows several years of campaigning to remove barriers to research from CEBDP. We continue to push the government to go further.

Our report and campaigning around UK drug policy governance had a clear influence on the Government's **10 year Drug Strategy**, released December 6th 2021.

We worked with MPs to bring about the first ever debates in Parliament on **psilocybin** – an adjournment debate on 14 March 2023 and a back bench business debate on 18 May 2023.

CBD: we were key campaigners in convincing the government to set a reasonable maximum limit for controlled phytocannabinoids in consumer **CBD** products, which they did in October 2023.

In the press

A selection of our recent media coverage (clickable)

UK NEWS WEBSITE OF THE YEAR
The Telegraph Log in

News Sport Money Business Opinion

See all News



The £8bn boom in magic mushrooms that's sweeping Britain

They're billed as a miracle cure for mental illness - but do psychedelic drugs live up to the hype?

By Lauren Shirreff
 21 May 2023 · 10:00am

THE TIMES Today's sections Past six days Explore Times Radio Times+ My acc

HEALTH
Legalise psychedelic drugs to help treat depression, urge experts

MPs to debate allowing NHS and researchers to have freer access to psilocybin, the active compound in magic mushrooms

Eleanor Hayward, Health Correspondent
 Monday May 15 2023, 1.45pm, The Times

Health



politics.co.uk

MP Comment

Charlotte Nichols: 'The government is blocking me from getting the treatment I need'

By Charlotte Nichols
 Labour MP for Warrington North
 Tuesday, 5 Dec. 2023

In 2021 I was the victim of a crime that resulted in me

Featured

News Feature
 Is Robert Jenrick the new Suella Braverman?

5 Minute Read

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CALLS FOR PSYCHEDELIC DRUG TRIALS
 Studies suggest they may have medical benefits for mental health

Studies suggest psychedelic drugs could have MEDICAL BENEFITS for mental health

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Nitrous oxide: Possession of laughing gas to be criminal offence

27 March



Current Workstreams

Progressing towards a brighter future for UK drug policy and for society.

Psilocybin Rescheduling Project

While the reduction of barriers to researching Schedule 1 drugs has been one of our major successes, psilocybin remains in Schedule 1 without a justification in the evidence, blocking patient access - our campaign continues.

Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Ensuring the UK's statutorily appointed council of drug policy experts is properly funded, resourced and empowered to provide the government with timely and expert advice on change to drug policy legislation.

Increased patient access to psilocybin campaign

Identifying and reducing barriers to access psilocybin and other psychedelic medicines post market authorisation via timely strategic interventions such as the establishment of a professional standards organisation and central data registry.

Harm Reduction

Drug related deaths and harms persistently reach all time highs in the UK. We actively advocate for evidence based harm reduction tactics such as overdose prevention centres, increasing the availability of naloxone, diamorphine assisted treatment, and needle exchange programs to save lives and protect public health.

Work with us - our annual subscriptions

Help us bring about evidence based drug policy reform that increases the public good, supports UK bioscience and opens up patient access to novel treatments.

Bronze - basic £25,000

- Supporting our overall objectives and adequately resourcing the campaign for drug policy reform.
- Early access to CEBDP research and reports.
- Attendance to our annual event with invitees including our Policy Council as well as distinguished guests.
- Brand partnership and detailed as a sponsor on our website.

Silver - up to £50,000

Further investment can be put towards commissioning, if you wish, up to 250 hours of work from our expert team for providing bespoke support, for example undertaking a personalised campaign.

Gold - £50,000+

We also provide more personalised:

- Events (e.g. party conference, events hosted on the parliamentary estate)
- Additional consultancy time
- Dedicated staff for your specific project
- Legislative support

‘The Centre for Evidence Based Drug Policy team is highly effective – their outcomes-driven approach gets things done.

‘In the last year, they have brought about change in the fields of psychedelics policy, reducing barriers to research, and setting reasonable phytocannabinoid limits for CBD.’

— Professor David Nutt

Director, Neuropsychopharmacology Unit, Imperial College London

Former chair of the UK government’s Advisory Council for the Misuse of Drugs

Find out more about the CEBDP and get in touch

Explore our reports and briefing papers, and get in touch to collaborate with us:
sam.lawes@drugpolicycentre.org



Connect with us on social media:

Twitter: @drugpolicyuk

LinkedIn: /cebdp