



LEPH2026

The Eighth International Conference on Law Enforcement & Public Health

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UK
6-9 SEPT

Law Enforcement, Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Workshop

4-5 September, 2026

A satellite meeting at #LEPH2026 – the 8th International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health, Leeds, UK, 6-9 September, 2026

Agenda

Time	Agenda
Friday 4 September	Day 1
09:00-09:30	Arrival tea/coffee @Merchants Hall
09:30-09:40	Registration @Tweed room (2nd floor)
09:40	Session 1: Introduction to Law enforcement, drug policy and harm reduction
	Welcome remarks • Dr Melissa Jardine, international policing consultant GLEPHA Co-founder and Fellow
	Overview of the workshop • Dr Tracey Price-Allan, Head of Social Research at Urban Foresight GLEPHA Board member
	Participant introductions
	Presentation of previous workshop outputs and GLEPHA's work in harm reduction • Dr Melissa Jardine

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	Group Photo
10:45-11:15	Morning tea @Merchants Hall
11:15-12:30	Moderator: Dr Melissa Jardine Session 2: Lessons learned from drug policy reform Transforming Policing Practice: Life-Saving Interventions • Assistant Commissioner (ret'd) Gary Ritchie, Global Consortium Group Edinburgh Napier University Presentation on the ripple effect of the Police Naloxone roll out in Scotland – exploring the possibility that police officers prefer saving lives with Naloxone over delivering yet another death message – further illustrating that meaningful work can transform outcomes for everyone involved. • TBC
12:30-13:30	Lunch @Merchants Hall
13:30-15:00	Moderator: Dr Tracey Price-Allan Session 3: Police-led drug diversion: It works, but for whom, and how can it be improved to reduce more harm? • Professor Alex Stevens, University of Sheffield • Professor Alex Stevens, University of Sheffield Summary: Alex Stevens and Matthew Bacon will discuss the results of a major, realist evaluation of police-led drug diversion (PDD) in England. PDD is a form of harm reduction policing that diverts people away from punishment towards educational or therapeutic interventions. Funded by the Cabinet Office, and working with the College of Policing, the PDD research team collected data on over 60,000 drug-related offences in 13 police forces, and carried out qualitative interviews and focus groups with 221 providers and recipients of diversion in three focus areas. Results showed that PDD reduced reoffending by people who were caught in possession of drugs and reduced the associated costs to the criminal justice system. The session will discuss the results, with a focus on how these outcomes were achieved, and on how police forces can work better with drug treatment agencies and other partners to reduce the harms of criminalisation and increase access to support services.
15:00-15:30	Afternoon tea @Merchants Hall

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15:30-16:45	Moderator: Session 4: How do we measure impact, and how does that get presented to the public? • Neil Woods, Director, OEV Partners former Board member, Law Enforcement Action Partnership • Tom Andrews, Senior Lecturer in Policing, University of Derby Is policing causing itself problems by not using evidence to inform media engagement on drugs? This workshop will look at the ethics around and the impact of misinformation from the press around the impact of drugs policing. How can police ensure accurate and evidence based press briefing and social media engagement and why should they? The session will be introduced by a short film, and will be the start of a consultation process to produce an outcome document. This document is intended to be useful for police media teams and journalists, and news editors.
4.45pm	Day close
Saturday 5 September	Day 2
09:00-09:30	Arrival tea/coffee @Merchants Hall
09:30-10:45	Moderator: Dr Melissa Jardine Session 5: Policing, Harm Reduction and Public Safety: Lessons from the Dutch Context • Ruben Boomsma, Chair, Law Enforcement Action Partnership Netherlands (LEAPNL) Delivered by Law Enforcement Action Partnership Netherlands (LEAPNL), this session explores the relationship between policing, harm reduction and public safety in the Netherlands. Drawing on frontline policing experience and evidence-based practice, it examines how Dutch drug policy, illegal drug markets and organized crime affect communities, public health and police work. The session will discuss the unintended consequences of punitive approaches, the challenges faced by law enforcement, and the potential of harm reduction strategies to reduce harm, violence and vulnerability. It offers a practical policing perspective on why harm reduction should be considered an essential component of modern public safety policy. Divesting from Criminalisation to Invest in Communities, Health, and Justice • Ailish Brennan, Policy Analyst and Campaigner, Harm Reduction International

Time	Agenda
	The war on drugs is unjust and ineffective. Criminalising drug use has done nothing to curb harms associated with drugs; instead, it has fuelled human rights abuses, driven stigma and discrimination, and compounded the negative health outcomes experienced by people who use drugs. Criminalising people who use drugs also costs vast amounts of money which could be used much more effectively, at a time when global health budgets are being squeezed. HRI has been gathering evidence on the impact of divesting from punitive drug policies and investing in harm reduction - supporting the moral argument for reducing criminalisation with one of fiscal prudence. Taking examples from our Divest/Invest campaign, including Colombia, Costa Rica, Uruguay, and Jamaica, along with others from around the world and broader evidence from our publications Aid for the War on Drugs and Making the Investment Case, we can outline the massive benefit from even minor shifts away from policies criminalising people who use drugs.
10:45-11:15	Morning tea @Merchants Hall
11:15-12:30	Moderator: Dr Tracey Price-Allan / Dr Melissa Jardine Session 6: (Working groups on output) Participants will split into mixed groups that include various types of practitioners, including police, community groups and those with lived/living experience and journalists. Each group will be given a scenario to explore during their discussion. They will consider and agree what language and reporting principles will best suit the scenario, and they will also reflect on the potential implications of chosen language. The groups will then consider what questions journalists should focus on asking police when public pronouncements are made.
12:30-13:30	Lunch @Merchants Hall
13:30-15:00	Moderator: Dr Tracey Price-Allan / Dr Melissa Jardine Session 6 (continued): Presentation of working group discussions and finalise output A nominated spokesperson from each group will present their group's discussion, agreements and decisions to the wider group. The wider group will consider the elements they agree with, or want to discuss further until a high level of consensus is reached. Information will be collated on reporting principles, language and answers, and this will later be circulated to the stakeholders who took part in the event for agreement.
15:00-15:30	Afternoon tea and Close @Merchants Hall