

Isn't it annoying when you read reports and articles where the authors don't spell out acronyms or explain the jargon? Yes, even us here at Druglink have been guilty of same. So to help you out, here is a quick trip through some common drug field jargon.

ACMD (Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs): Reports to the Home Office with a statutory responsibility to advise government on the continuing operation of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and changes in the law deemed necessary in the light of emerging evidence.

ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers): Includes a Drugs Sub-Committee which undertakes research, intelligence work and effectiveness reviews in relation to the government strategy.

ADFAM (Aid for Addicts and Family): National charity for families and friends of drug users providing counselling and support services.

BCS (British Crime Survey): Home Office-funded research study on self-reported drug use from a large nationally represented sample of people living in private households in England and Wales. Conducted every two years.

CDPU (Central Drugs Prevention Unit): Home Office unit responsible for developing and implementing policy in relation to prevention. Now called Drug Prevention Advisory Service (DPAS).

CDT (Community Drug Team): Specialist drug treatment services operating at a local level.

CRDHB (Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour): Academic research unit now part of Imperial College, London, which undertakes primary epidemiological and public health research.

DAT (Drug Action Team – England and Scotland) / **DAAT** (Drug and Alcohol Action Team – Wales): Multidisciplinary teams drawn from health, social services, education, police, and voluntary services backgrounds to lead and co-ordinate local and regional collaboration in the context of government strategy.

DDUs (Drug Dependency Units): Specialist drug treatment services attached to hospitals.

DfEE (Department for Education and Employment): Central government department involved in furthering development of, and providing guidance for, teachers, youth workers and other professionals on effective approaches in drug education.

DoH (Department of Health): Central government department taking responsibility for health aspects of government drug strategy.

DPAS (Drugs Prevention Advisory Service): Replaced the Drug Prevention Initiative (DPI) but continues the work of implementing and evaluating drugs prevention action in communities, and disseminating good practice.

DRG (Drug Reference Group – England) / **LAT** (Local Action Team – Wales): Local organisations advising DATs, DAATs, and communities in support of the government strategy.

HAS (Health Advisory Service) see SMAS.

HEA (Health Education Authority): National agency for health education and promotion, and currently responsible for the government's publicity campaign on drugs.

HEBS (Health Education Board for Scotland): National agency for health education and promotion, responsible for the government's publicity campaign on drugs in Scotland.

HMC&E (Her Majesty's Customs and Excise): Central government department responsible for preventing the arrival of drugs into the country. Customs usually make the large seizures in weight, while the police drug squads make the greater number of seizures of much smaller amounts.

HO (Home Office): Government department with overall responsibility for police, prison, Customs and Excise, the implementation of the Misuse of Drugs Act (including the licensing of doctors to prescribe drugs to drug users in support of their addiction) and the Drug Prevention Advisory Service.

HS(D) (Home and Social Affairs (Drugs)): Cabinet Sub-Committee on Drug Misuse and the Ministerial body responsible for ensuring collaboration across government departments, agencies and the voluntary and private sectors in support of the Government strategy.

LAT see DRG

LEA (Local Education Authority): Local government authority with responsibility for implementing government strategy in respect of drugs education plans, and in some areas by providing Drug Education Coordinators.

LDPF (London Drug Policy Forum): Established by the Corporation of London and the Drug Prevention Initiative (now DPAS) to coordinate London local authority policy and practice and encourage joint working.

LGDF (Local Government Drugs Forum): Local government association promoting best practice and aiding local authorities in partnerships with other organisations in the community.

NAC (National Addiction Centre): A London-based centre for research into clinical practice within the substance misuse field. Also linked to the Maudsley Hospital and Institute of Psychiatry.

NACRO (National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders): Independent charity providing a resettlement information service for prisoners, and running local crime prevention projects.

NCIS (National Criminal Intelligence Service): Collates all types of information on drug trafficking and for example, monitors suspect

movement of precursor chemicals and associated equipment used in the production of illicit drugs and develops intelligence on money laundering activities.

NCS (National Crime Squad): National police agency acting against organised criminals. Broadly speaking, NCS replaced Regional Crime Squads.

NDH (National Drugs Helpline): Confidential telephone service providing information, advice and counselling run (from April 1999) by the Liverpool-based agency Healthwise for the Department of Health.

NTORS (National Treatment Outcome Research Study): Department of Health-funded research monitoring the progress of 1100 drug users in treatment over five years (to 2001) to measure changes in drug use, health, social functioning and criminality and producing evidence on the effectiveness of four treatment modalities.

RDMD (Regional Drug Misuse Databases): Regionally located databases collating information supplied voluntarily by local treatment providers in England and Wales about those presenting to services. Information is further collated by the Department of Health who publish a bulletin every six months.

SCODA (Standing Conference on Drug Abuse): Independent national co-ordinating body for drugs services and others offering specialist advice services on a range of issues in the drug field including drug treatment service provision, education/prevention, and sources of funding.

SDF (Scottish Drugs Forum): The national policy and information agency coordinating action on drug issues in Scotland.

SMAS (Substance Misuse Advisory Service): Department of Health funded consultancy service and a project of HAS 2000 (Health Advisory Service) aiming to assist health and social care commissioners in England to develop their purchasing and practice in order to improve services.

TACADE (The Advisory Council on Alcohol and Drugs Education): Independent service and information providers in the drug and education field, and producers of teaching resources for drugs education.

UKADCU (United Kingdom Anti-Drugs Coordination Unit): Unit in the Privy Council Office, formerly CDCU (Central Drugs Coordination Unit), whose role is to support the monitoring and effective implementation of the government strategy, including support for the UK Anti-Drugs Coordinator and his Deputy who report to HS(D).

WDAU (Welsh Drug and Alcohol Unit): Managed by SCODA and providing information, advice and professional development services in Wales on all aspects of prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation.