

Substance Misuse & Dual Diagnosis



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Volume discounts available for annual licences—please call for more information.

Here are four stories about people with a dual diagnosis involving mental illness and drug misuse, including cannabis, heroin, crack cocaine, amphetamines, ecstasy and alcohol. The stories are an excellent training resource and are presented as an online e-learning course. Aimed at people with a dual diagnosis, as well as practitioners and trainers, the course contains essential information and advice about reducing the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol.

This colourful and engaging course is particularly attractive to those seeking to provide practical information in jargon-free language to users and practitioners working with dual diagnosis clients. It can be used as a focus for discussion in a group setting but is equally suitable for those who would rather work by themselves or in one-to-one sessions at their own pace and at a time and place of their choosing.

Developed in association with Manchester Mental Health and Social Care Trust, this course is derived from a series of four booklets. The stories are based on the experiences of people in psychiatric treatment and were told as part of a PhD sponsored by the Trust and the University of Salford and in collaboration with Lifeline. Original research, text and illustration by Michael Linnell and Mark Holland.

All candidates will receive a certificate upon completion.

Course comprises:

- David - the man with the transparent head (*Cannabis*)
- 'Raving Mad' Martha (*Ecstasy*)
- Jason - the psychonaut (*Alcohol and other drugs*)
- A man called God - in heaven and hell (*Heroin and Crack Cocaine*)

Please contact us on 0114 281 3746 for more information



CQM Learning Ltd 3 Westbrook Court Sharrow Vale Road Sheffield S11 8UJ

Telephone: 0114 281 3746 Fax: 0114 281

www.cqmlearning.co.uk

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This resource offers the learner the chance to step inside the head of someone at risk from substance misuse and addresses directly the issues faced by people with a dual diagnosis. Practitioners from the entire range of health and social care services will find it relevant, including those working in the fields of criminal justice and housing. Furthermore, the resource is user-friendly, stimulating and extremely informative and up-to-date.

Managers and trainers will find the resource to be a key tool for equipping practitioners with an insight into the issues of dual diagnosis and this particular client group. The self-help approach of the course's content means that carers and service users will also find the resource valuable.

Course Content

Unit 1 - David has a diagnosis of schizophrenia. He has been in and out of hospital several times and, still only in his 20's, he learns about the effects, both good and bad, of cannabis on his mental health. His story is told in a sympathetic and moving way.

Unit 2 - Martha knows the dark side and the bright side to ecstasy (and other drugs) and this comes through in a story that shows how a person might have to adapt their lives to the distress and stigma of mental illness. There are tips on safer use, relapse prevention, dealing with emergencies and more.

Unit 3 - Jason will use anything as long as it makes him feel 'normal'. Thing is, it doesn't make him feel normal - it just makes him feel less 'abnormal'. He hears things, sees things, gets weird and bizarre ideas and simply keeps using drink and drugs to get through it all. This unit includes a useful drug interactions matrix which shows how substances interact with medications.

Unit 4 - Geoff (aka 'God') is usually living on the street (he has been for years). On occasions he has a roof over his head - but that is often a hospital roof after being sectioned. His life is like heaven and hell, speedballing or drinking and being in hospital. But he wants what others want - it just seems to be a case of staying alive until it comes about.

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