



Intervention program in nightlife,
leisure and socialization venues to raise awareness
and prevent GBV behaviours – including LGBTIphobia –
linked to sexual violence and substance use

LOCAL PILOT ACTION PLAN





Country: Ireland

Organization: Health Service Executive (HSE)

Realization of the Pilot: From May 2024 to January 2025

Professional figures involved:

Training: Dublin City University, Mpower (Chemsex service), Rialto Community Drugs Team (Chemsex support), Ask Consent, Mens Aid (Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Service), SAOR Brief Intervention Trainers, Youth Work Ireland Pornography Trainer, University College Cork, Bystander Programme

HSE Safer Nightlife Programme intervention delivery at dance events and festivals in Ireland involved:

- 2 HSE Staff
- 29 volunteers from training and additional 41 harm reduction volunteers

Number of interventions

Interventions delivered at 4 events and at third-level education settings

Where the pilot was implemented:

- **June 28th – 29th: Pride Block Party Dublin:**
(Mother club promoters). Two day dance party in Dublin City for Dublin Pride
Capacity – estimated 5,000
- **August 9th: District 8 Garden Party dance event:**
One day dance event.
Capacity – estimated 3-5,000
- **August 15th – 18th: Electric Picnic Festival**
Three day camping festival
Capacity – 75,000
- **September 21st – District x dance event.**
One day event
Capacity – 20,000
- **On-going: October 2024 – February 2025-**
University settings



Co-funded by
the European Union



Resources used as part of interventions were created by HSE and other local stakeholders on range of topics – CRISSCROSS, new HSE resources developed with partners, Active Consent, Man2Man (sexual health, condoms lube), Safe Gigs, Mpower (Chemsex



Description of the context.

The HSE adapted the CRISSCROSS pilot as part of their Safer Nightlife Programme which is delivered across a range of dance events and festivals in Ireland. For the purpose of the pilot, partnership was established with the largest LGBTI+ dance event for Dublin Pride weekend.

These contexts are at risk settings for the intersection of a range of issues which vary based on the type of event and the age profile of the people attending. One of the main issues across day dance events which generally start at 2pm and end at 11pm is the quick consumption of alcohol, stimulants and poly drug combinations causing drug emergencies. In addition, greater issues can then present at weekend-long camping events such as distress, mental health concerns, lack of sleep, hydration, food, issues of consent, assault and violence.

Third-level education settings are also a space where these issues can intersect and have an identified gap in education provision on the range of topics. For this reason, the Union of Students in Ireland were invited to attend training and were provided with materials.

Context and profile of events with intervention provided by the HSE

Event	Demographics	Needs	Service Provided	Wider Event Support
MOTHER PRIDE BLOCK PARTY	Brazilian LGBTI+ community, mainly men who have sex with men	Basic support on health services available/sign posting to community services post event Chemsex support (GHB /meth use) Intersection of Chemsex and consent; Chemsex sign posting for community support Sexual health info	Health tent/info hub beside medics Outreach support at entrance, sit down area and dance arena Drugs analyzed by HSE lab offsite	HSE worked as part of Safety Control/Event Management team led by the Safety Controller Sexual health info and condoms also supported by Durex
PRIDE 29th June	Irish LGBTI+ community	Stimulant and polydrug use Chemsex support Sexual health info	Health tent/info hub beside medics Outreach support at entrance, sit down area and dance arena	HSE worked as part of Safety Control/Event Management team led by the Safety Controller

			Drugs analyzed by HSE lab offsite	
DISTRICT 8 GARDEN PARTY 9th August	16-21 year-olds	<p>High levels of alcohol and ketamine consumption</p> <p>Vulnerable young women alone – detect, support and support to welfare sit down area to wait for friends</p> <p>Outreach to female toilets to offer support for those who need to talk away from partner/group</p> <p>Vomiting from use of alcohol and ketamine/sick bags</p> <p>Overdose support around dance arena</p>	<p>Health tent/info hub in sit down area</p> <p>Outreach to entrance where busses stopped, secluded areas, toilets areas and dance arena</p> <p>Drugs analyzed onsite by HSE</p>	<p>Safety controller in charge of this event</p> <p>Welfare sit down space provided at back of HSE tent by company</p>
ELECTRIC PICNIC 15th-18th August	18-60+ years old	High levels of poly drug use and stimulants. High strength MDMA leading to emergencies	Two HSE tents, one in campsite beside medics and welfare and one in main arena beside other support services such as Women Aid,	HSE part of the event control team including safety controller, law enforcement, medics and wider event

		<p>Mental health, come downs, low mood (lack of sleep)</p> <p>People impacted by friends overdoses/mental health</p> <p>Concern for spiking/support for direct and indirect friends</p>	<p>HSE Sexual Assault Treatment Unit and Safe Gigs</p> <p>Outreach each day 11am–9am through campsites, various arenas and at gigs</p> <p>HSE lab located with medical supports</p>	<p>emergency management team who met each morning</p> <p>HSE also part of wider support team including welfare company and range of other services who worked together to share resources/support and sign post to suitable services available across the festival</p>
<p>DISTRICT X 21st September</p>	<p>18 – 30 year olds dance community</p>	<p>High levels of poly drug use – alcohol, stimulants and ketamine</p>	<p>Two HSE tents in different areas of the event</p> <p>Outreach support at entrance throughout arena, toilets, etc.</p> <p>HSE lab located with medics and drugs analyzed onsite</p>	<p>Safety controller operating the event overseeing risk assessments conducted by medics/outreach</p> <p>Two welfare services provided (stationary) where HSE brought those who may need to sit/get extra support away from event</p>

Responses:

Overall, all events required awareness raising activities and harm reduction interventions for people who use drugs, health promotion awareness on general wellbeing, mental and sexual health. The level of service provision was based on the events preference as part of their license/safety plans and what other services were already provided onsite.

Site based support: A safe space was provided for people to come to discuss any issues they are experiencing. At two of the larger events, the HSE had two locations where people could attend.

Outreach: In addition, outreach support was provided at all events to reach people who don't present to the designated tent to provide brief engagement and harm reduction interventions across campsites/dance arenas, conduct risk assessments on situations, detect issues of concern and intervene at different levels.

Outreach helped create a relationship and trust with audiences and helped communicate that teams were available should they need support throughout the duration of the event.

Examples of outreach support provided: supporting intoxicated and vulnerable people alone, identifying and supporting those

vulnerable for a range of reasons, observing overstimulation and providing water bottles for hydration, supporting people to access law enforcement/medics/welfare areas as needed, identifying emergencies and supporting medical intervention when needed.

The HSE worked with event providers to share messages with their audiences in advance of events, this included developing welfare messages and sign posting materials which were on display around festivals. For example:

<https://www.district8dublin.com/welfare>



Resources :

Outreach visibility: Hi vis vests with harm reduction messages/ 'talk to me', and multi-coloured lanyards stating 'Safer Nightlife'

Awareness video – video covering a range of topics shared on social media and on festival screens encouraging inclusive nightlife, being a bystander and linking with HSE teams at events.

Drug awareness materials about different drugs, harm reduction information, GHB use identification cards, overdose materials, the drug wheel education resource, personal drug wheel to spin, badges with harm reduction messages, stickers, awareness bags, printed alerts, messages on screens and festival applications, large harm reduction posters in toilets, campsites etc.

General wellbeing: Reusable water bottles, lip balm, ear plugs

Sexual health: Leaflets, testing information, chemsex information, condoms, lube

Consent: Information cards, badges, booklets, bags, pens

Bystander awareness: Booklets on being a bystander on nights out, stickers and posters. Sexism Free Night materials. Information left in toilets.

LGBTI+: FAQ on terminology, pronoun badges, translated 'Nightlife for all', sign posting information for services

Domestic, sexual and gender based violence: Posters, leaflets for Sexual Assault Treatment Units (SATU) and linking with this service at one event. Resources highlighting impact of DSGBV in LGBTI+ community, Sexism Free Night stickers, info cards and poster





Description of strategies.

Policies and protocols were developed with each event based on the need and service agreement.

These included agreement on:

- Harm reduction interventions
- Brief engagements/interventions to check in on and support attendees. Based on Irish SAOR model for screening and brief intervention
- Guidance on creating safer spaces based on UK and EU examples, chill out areas, water provision, Sexism Free Night materials, Kosmicare/University of Porto Lilac Protocol
- Non-judgmental messages and communications to encourage help seeking behaviors
- The use of bystander awareness and consent materials
- Health promotion and sexual health harm reduction
- Analysis of substances to inform public health messages
- Consultation and collaboration with medics and as part of safety and emergency strategies

Impact and description of target audience

The audience for engagement was primarily young people who attend dance events and festivals. Interventions were delivered to a range of different demographics and diverse communities across the selected events. The pilot engaged with young people from different socio economic backgrounds, ethnicities, gender identities and from a range of locations throughout Ireland.

Main engagement was estimated to be among those between the ages of 18 – 30 years old.

Through the pilot, we encouraged collaboration among the relevant agencies already working in this area to facilitate knowledge and resource exchange. This meant that intersectional issues could be addressed in partnership at some events, rather than as isolated topics.

Resource sharing was central to the Irish pilot so that other agencies could utilize the same materials as part of their work. This ensured that the messages reached larger audiences across events and in educational settings.

It was important for event organizers to share messages and resources in advance of the event on their websites and social

media to help create a non-judgmental and safe environment, which was a topic that emerged in our local research/focus groups with young people who named specific event organizers in their feedback. It was important for us to then work with these organizers and publically share inclusive messages.

Messages were shared on event screens and through a festival application at one event.

Collaboration on delivering interventions at events was successful to identify/detect concern and support attendees to the relevant point of contact onsite.

Successful tools for engagement and intervention

- Bystander awareness booklet
- Translated badges and sexual health information to Portuguese
- Drug education wheel/game
- Water bottles, lip balm, ear plugs
- Lube

Training

- 40 hour training programme: 27 participants
- Additional training for nightlife staff and Safer Nightlife volunteers. Focus on nightlife, creating safer spaces and support at events. Full day in person 8 hours, 22 participants
- Additional chemsex and intimate partner violence training by chemsex support worker and Mens Aid. Online, half day training: 7 participants
- Training with third-level student peer reps (on-going January – February 2025)

Stakeholders and agencies

Active Consent, UCC ByStander Intervention Programme, Mpower Chemsex Support, Man2Man, SAOR Brief Intervention Trainers, Youth Work Ireland, Dublin City University, Belong To, Union of Students in Ireland, Men's Aid, FYDS (funded youth service)

People reached

- 3,000 bottles disseminated
- 3,000 lip balms
- 2,000 ear plugs
- ~2,000 drug booklets

- ~5,000 bystander booklets provided
- Estimated over 5,000 badges with key messages provided
- 4 harm reduction and communication policies developed with event organizers
- 4 noteworthy critical incidents
- 209 drug samples provided to the HSE
- 57 hours of support/outreach at 4 events
- Estimated >2,000 people reached through outreach engagements over 4 events with interactions ranging from check in, brief engagement to intervention and support



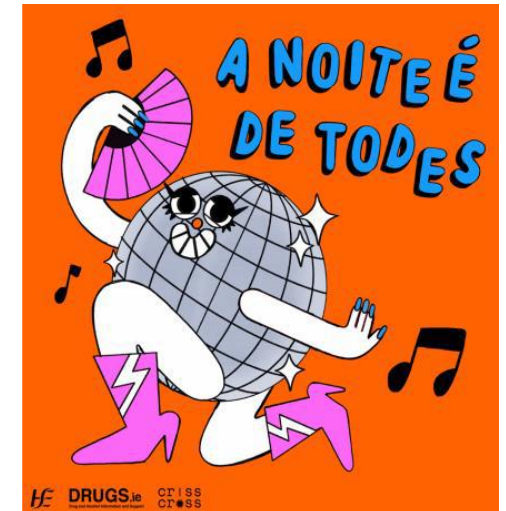
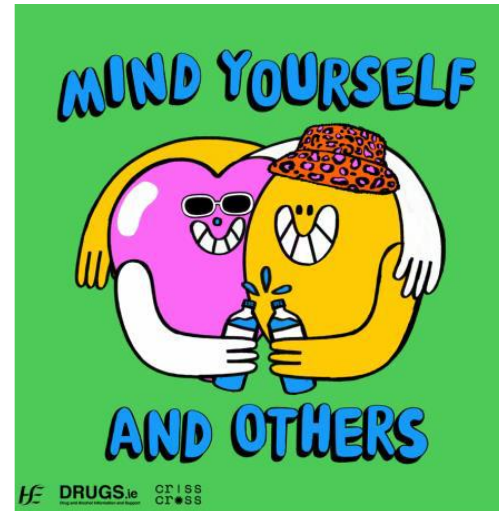
Communication campaign graphics.

Key messages were reviewed with the Union of Students in Ireland, nightlife providers, nightlife advisors and the UCC Bystander Intervention Programme as well as with members of the Night-Time Economy Task Force.

Short, simple messages with friendly graphics was selected as the preferred option from Irish stakeholders.

In addition, the HSE worked with one event District X to create welfare messages and a video to be shared in the lead up to the event to create a sense of community and looking after each other.

Messages were shared through social media channels, by stakeholders through their channels, by event organizers and on large screens at events.



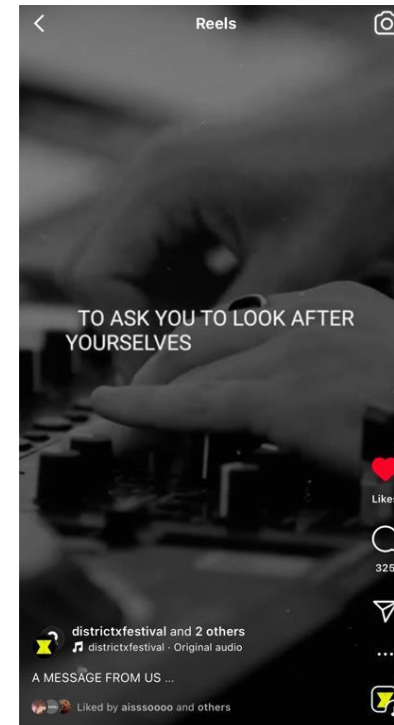
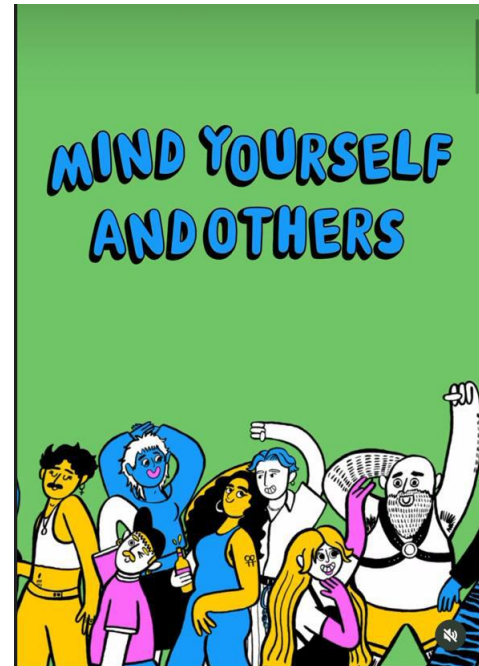


Assess the situation:

- Only intervene if it is safe
- Think about the safest way to approach
- Consider your tone and body language
- Ask others for support and help



HE DRUG 3/4





MEDICS

District X will have a full medic crew on site that are there to help you. District X is a judgement free zone - if you or a friend is feeling unwell at any point, do not hesitate to talk to our medics or welfare staff. Again, they are there to help you. Welfare can be found next to the First Aid Posts. HSE [drugs.ie](https://www.drugs.ie) info points are there too.



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