

## **HIPS/21/20 – Using foil for drug administration: exploring the views and experience of people who use drugs.**

Drugs, such as heroin and crack cocaine, can be smoked by inhaling the smoke produced by heating the drug on a piece of aluminium foil. Since 2014, foil has been provided by harm reduction services in Scotland to encourage smoking as a safer alternative to injecting. Smoking significantly reduces drug-related harms such as overdose and the transmission of infectious diseases. Though other health complications may arise. Since foil was first provided by injecting equipment provision (IEP) services, the uptake has increased by over 100% in a few years. Yet, little is known about its use.

This study will explore the views of people attending IEP services about their experience of accessing foil; their use or non-use of foil; and its use among their drug using networks. We will conduct qualitative interviews with service users in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde to understand how and for what drugs foil is used, what benefits and harms they experience with its use, whether injecting practices have changed as a result and reasons for not smoking drugs with foil. We are interested in hearing their views on the potential of foil as a harm reduction intervention for reducing drug-related infections, overdoses and deaths in order to inform policy and practice.