

ADS Addiction
Dependency
Solutions

Let's make a difference

A refocussed, community alcohol and drug
charity for Greater Manchester.



Our identity

ADS is the oldest surviving alcohol and drug charity in Greater Manchester. Originally set up in 1973 by somebody concerned for the welfare of a close family member who was drinking too much alcohol, we are proud of our heritage, we are proud of our achievements over the last 48 years and we are proud of our plans to return to the heart of ADS and to the heart of our communities.

As with all organisations, our history is one of highs and lows. From those early days in Manchester being based out of a living room, we grew through the 80s, 90s and early 2000s, fuelled by significant investment in alcohol services initially, and subsequently drug service provision. We expanded to deliver services across Greater Manchester and as far north as Cumbria and as far South as Staffordshire. We had two rehabilitation units, one in Manchester and one in Preston, and our own alcohol detox unit in Preston. At our height we were supporting over 18,000 people per year and demonstrating huge success in helping them to overcome issues with addiction and dependency on drugs and alcohol.

In 2010 the commissioning environment changed significantly. There was a new focus on integrating alcohol and drug treatment

and all provision related to providing services to people affected by alcohol and drug use. ADS was successful in securing contracts in Bury, Staffordshire, Blackpool and Oldham.

The integration of alcohol and drug services was fraught with difficulty. Drug services in particular were based on a heavy medicalised model, reliant on prescribing opiate replacement medication to heroin users, a system which had existed since the 80's and was a response to the AIDS epidemic. If you used substances other than heroin there was very little offered by way of support and in some circumstances you were turned away from services. Merging clinical and non-clinical staffing also brought huge challenges. The hierarchical and bureaucratic systems in place, particularly for NHS colleagues, conflicted with charitable systems which relied on flexibility, being fleet



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of foot and responding quickly to challenges and emerging trends. The bureaucratic expectations of commissioners to collect data in minute detail led to, in some circumstances, requirements to collect up to 260 different data sets making it necessary to adopt lengthy assessment processes and huge expectations on staff to input data.

Despite early success it was clear that the impact of having to implement integrated services was taking its toll on ADS. To a degree it compromised our charitable aims and challenged us to forfeit those aims in favour of becoming more business-like. Furthermore as we progressed through the delivery of these contracts it became clear that Government imposed austerity measures would have a huge impact on the funding available for these contracts.

Continuous cuts, including a 50% cut in funding in the middle of the Staffordshire contract ADS was running at the time, placed a huge financial burden on ADS. Redundancy costs were mounting but there was no let up on the expectations on ADS to deliver to all of the contractual requirements.

It became clear that the continuing involvement in integrated alcohol and drug services was too high a price to pay for ADS, too much of a compromise of our values as a charity and with unrealistic expectations of success in an environment of continued disinvestment in services by local authorities. This led to our decision to no longer bid for alcohol and drug contracts and return ADS to its charitable aims and objectives and reduce the size of the organisation with a view to delivering on a new vision.

Our vision

Our vision is to return ADS to what it does best. Connecting directly with people who need help because they are struggling with alcohol or drug use, to connect with family members of those experiencing difficulties and to provide practical and emotional support that will enable them to overcome those challenges and thrive.



Our mission

To connect directly with people struggling with alcohol and/or drug use.

To provide practical and emotional support to people affected by alcohol and drug use, including family members.

To provide spaces in local communities where people can meet and learn new ways of coping with challenges.



How will we do it?

- 1** We will utilise our website to enable people to assess their own drinking or drug use and ascertain how much of a problem it is for them. The website will include information and resources to allow people to understand the challenges they face and how that will impact on their use of alcohol and drugs.
- 2** We will provide contact details for those people to contact us directly, describe what they're struggling with and what help they need. We will provide telephone and e-mail contact which will include information, advice and guidance.
- 3** Ultimately our aim is to provide support in the local community using group delivery as a means of supporting people. Groups will allow peers to support each other and will be facilitated by a trained practitioner who will deliver an educational element including strategies and techniques people can use to reduce and abstain from drink or drug use.
- 4** Our emphasis will be on human contact, we will have conversations, not assessment appointments, and those conversations will be person centred, not service centred or data centred. Our contacts will be based on empathy, understanding the person as a whole including their strengths as well as their struggles. We will work on the basis that alcohol or drugs is a symptom of wider challenges and does not define the individual.
- 5** Finally we will minimise bureaucracy. Any data we collect will be data that is necessary to support the person, to assist in demonstrating our impact or to help us secure funding from grant funders. We will not compromise our values in pursuit of funding or contracts. Our vision and values will be our first point of consideration when making decisions about bids for funding.

We will...

...be community focussed, reaching out to local people in their communities and we will emphasise the importance of place.

...not chase big contracts, particularly where the requirements of those contracts compromise our vision or our values.

...not compromise values for money.

...focus on developing a connection and an understanding of the person seeking our help and demonstrate empathy towards them.

...think outside the box, and be flexible in our approach, keen to innovate and we will listen to staff, volunteers and participants when they have ideas

...see people who seek help from us as participants working together with us, not clients receiving a service

...not implement unnecessary bureaucracy, or expect staff or volunteers to engage in anything overly bureaucratic.

...support people to make positive changes by providing them with information, advice and guidance, and strategies and techniques to help.

...be creative, passionate and patient, offering something more than just "recovery"

...be resilient to challenges and long-term focussed.

...be responsive and engaging to communities with different needs/ marginalised communities



Our values

Honesty

We hold honest conversations with people to support them in exploring their alcohol or drug use and identifying the problems they have in their life. We are honest with ourselves and the people around us.

Compassion

We listen with compassion as people describe their challenges and we will empathise with them.

Commitment

We are committed to providing credible support, that fits seamlessly into local support systems and enhances the offer to local people. We have the support of a board with a wide variety of experience who can support us in our aims and are committed to our values and our vision.

Integrity

Everything we do is with integrity. We don't get involved in criticising other services or organisations, we are honest when we make mistakes, we take our duty seriously to ensure all people have all the options for treatment and support presented to them.

Collaboration

We know we don't have all the answers and will not meet the needs of all people, that's why we spend a huge amount of time forging relationships with other organisations and working closely with them.

Anti-discriminatory

We do not tolerate discrimination in any form whether it is based on age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexuality.



Volunteering with ADS

ADS are currently offering volunteer positions to members of the public who want to help other people with addiction problems.

We call people engaging with our services participants. Our volunteers help participants find the help that they need. When somebody visits our website, they are invited to take our drug or alcohol test. This gives them a set of results that will indicate whether or not they need to seek some help. If they do need some help from us based on their score, they are able to send a message to our main enquiries mailbox, providing some key information so that we can get back them.

Our volunteers will then be able to respond to these enquiries when they come in and to signpost people to the services that can best offer them the support that they need.

They offer compassion and patience at this integral part of our participant's journey.

As ADS regrows, we will begin offering support groups of our own across the 10 boroughs of Greater Manchester.

Our volunteers are responsible for:

- Answering queries that come in via email or telephone
- Signposting individuals to services that directly meet their needs
- Offering advice following comprehensive ADS volunteer training
- Helping us deliver peer support groups across the 10 boroughs of Manchester

Our team

Chris Judge, CEO

Chris Judge (He/Him) has a passion for challenging the way things are done in alcohol and drug services. Chris believes in cutting through the barriers to accessing treatment. That people focussed, grassroots support in localised communities is the best way to achieve positive change. Chris has lived experience of alcoholism and domestic abuse through his childhood and early teens and this drives his passion to support communities. He spent time as a Probation Officer and Senior Probation Officer in Cheshire before joining ADS in 2011 as a Service Manager. He became a Service Delivery Director in 2014

before becoming Director of Strategic Development and Innovation in 2016. After a period of time away he is now back to deliver a vision of a new ADS.



Darren Spruce, Head of Engagement

Darren Spruce (He/Him) is Head of Engagement for ADS. Darren has worked in the alcohol & drug sector for 10 years and also works with LGBTQIA+ focussed organisations across Manchester & Yorkshire, specialising in community-focussed elevation for marginalised communities. He co-founded Yorkshire charity Happy Valley Pride in 2015 and has helped to develop it into becoming one of the leading LGBTQIA+ Community Arts organisations in the region and is excited to help grow the refocussed ADS.



Find out more

To find out more about the services that ADS offers, or to enquire about becoming a volunteer, visit:

adsolutions.org.uk

or email

hello@adsonerecovery.org.uk

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