



The Eden Lodge Practice

Home Office proposals are likely to increase drug addiction:

‘Public Consultation’ - Independent prescribing of controlled drugs by Nurse and Pharmacist Independent Prescribers:

The Government propose to extend the authority to prescribe controlled (illicit) and highly addictive drugs to Nurse Independent Prescribers and Pharmacists. The proposals can be viewed on

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2007-indepres?view=Binary>

We are of the opinion that such legislation will serve only to increase the spread of addiction and will not be of any long term benefit to addicts, their families or society. It will however permit the Government to take a step closer to legalising drugs, thus removing drug related offences, which includes violent crime from the statute book. This in turn will permit them to claim they have reduced crime, when the reality is that they have simply moved the ‘goal posts’ enabling them to show reduced crime *figures*. A ploy they have used since the downgrading of cannabis, whilst simultaneously instructing the police that possession of it despite still being a criminal offence, no longer carried the presumption of arrest.

This cynical and deliberate deception has in turn allowed various ministers to claim that the use of cannabis is reducing, when in fact the truth is that more and more young people are being admitted to psychiatric wards with cannabis related illness. Further much of our violent crime has been carried out by those under the influence of cannabis.

A further common drug related crime that has been removed from the statute book by our politicians is that of shoplifting, an offence for which prosecution now depends on businesses instigating private prosecutions, a time consuming and pointless exercise since the offender is likely to get no more than a warning. Once again politicians together with politically astute senior police officers are able to make claims of crime reduction, although in reality such crimes are increasing. We as consumers are paying for this crime by way of increased prices.

We have written to the Home Office expressing our concerns over the proposed legislation, a copy of this letter follows on. If after reading it you also feel inclined to comment, your views should be submitted to:

chrisedwards@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk