Name of Policy: Drug Harm Reduction: Support and Education

Full Name of proposer: Katharine Swindells - Welfare Officer

Full Name of second proposer: SU President - Lilian Jones

Sheffield Students’ Union Council notes:

1. There is no compelling evidence that criminalising personal drug use decreases the frequency or harm of drug use
2. The recent Night Lives report recommends a ‘Prevent Pursue Protect’ approach to drugs.(1)
3. Sheffield Students’ Union operates many late night licensed venues, and complies fully with the Licensing Act 2003

Sheffield Students’ Union Council believes:

1. Student safety is the top priority
2. Rather than punishment, Government policy should focus on harm reduction, and giving medical help to people who are addicted to drugs
3. We can challenge the government on this issue without contravening the law in our venues

Sheffield Students’ Union Council resolves:

1. To fully comply with the law regarding controlled drugs and the conditions of our licensed premises
2. To prioritise student welfare in our approach to drugs, emphasising education and access to support services
3. To lobby and educate local government to move away from zero tolerance and towards harm reduction
4. To oppose the harsh criminalisation of personal drug use, educate members on the harms caused by drug prohibition, and argue for a national change in legislation
5. To be transparent and open about our procedures around drugs