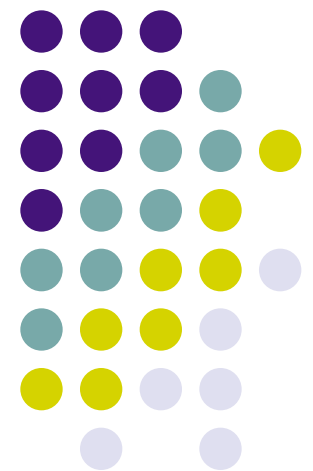


Iain Cameron

Chair Belfast User Group

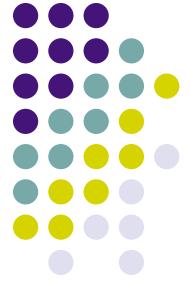
# 10 Years To The Day...

Service User Involvement  
or  
Community Development

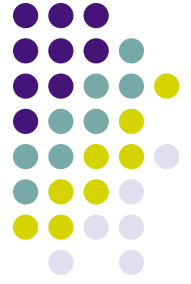


Belfast  
Drug Outreach  
Team

# Narrative - Pre 2000, a 'Risky Business'

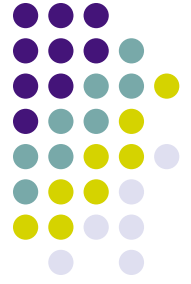


- Hostile culture, inflexible treatment
  - Britlofex Detox
  - Total abstinence/ Minnesota Model
  - No needle exchange, no outreach, Ulster said NO
- Paramilitary threat –
  - DAAD specific targeting of Drug users
  - Orchestrated intimidation, targeted violence
  - Punishments - Knee capping to 'execution'



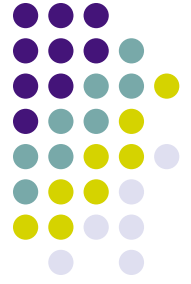
# Pressure....

- Media attention on increasing “problem”
  - Stories covered Needle finds
  - Health and particularly Virus threat to “the wider community”
- Needle exchange
  - 1ml Syringes & swabs
  - Restricted numbers (sometimes refusal with no returns)
  - 2 in Belfast, 9 in total for N.I.



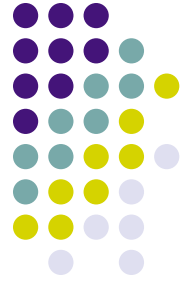
## Personal Hx...

- First rule of being a service user activist was “Don’t talk about being a service user activist”
- Need for an Advocate who understood the system and the community
- Represent activism as a community response  
– COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- Practical support for other drug users



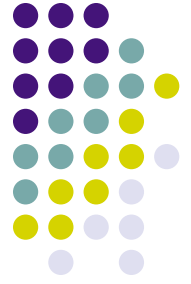
# Development...

- Drug Outreach Team – Jan 2003
- Became Outreach Worker and open self-disclosure
- Lobbying for Substitute Opiate prescribing
  - Established April 2004
  - Methadone and Later Subutex
  - Medical model (but referred by outreach)



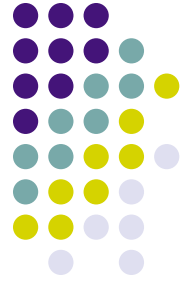
# Organising...

- IHRA 2005 conference in Belfast
  - Service user opened the conference
  - Representation on organising committee
- Representation on policy and regulating bodies
- Developing interest from other service users in a group



# Providing...

- Representation on Substitute prescribing group – influence on policy and review
- Safer Injecting Training day for service users.
- Hep C information and awareness day for service users.
- Partnership with a local pharmacist - alternative therapies for service users.



## To the day...

- Without any direct funding – Belfast User Group achieved success.
- Current process - constituting the Belfast User Group
- Received funding from DACT
  - To provide training for group work and group organisation
  - Train us in advocacy skills – The Alliance.