



ANA LIFFEY

DRUG PROJECT

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Naloxone stories from Dublin

Insights from staff and service users to mark
International Overdose Awareness Day
31st August 2021

#TimeToRememberTimeToAct

"As an outreach worker in the North Inner City, we regularly have a unique opportunity to engage and support people who may regularly find themselves in vulnerable situations. Prior to entering this service, I often carried a preconceived notion that all but a few overdoses primarily occur away from the public glare in locations that are off the beaten path. When initially doing naloxone training, I quickly accepted fact that one day there would be a very high probability that I would at some point be an active participant in an overdose. Over the last 18 months, I have administered naloxone several times and all my experiences have occurred in extremely public settings within the shadow of the hustle and bustle of the city centre. On one of these we approached a male who quite known to our team lying on his back motionless beside a row of tents in full view of afternoon shoppers. It was very clear (even from a distance) he was not in a good shape. Luckily, my colleague and I have always made a concerted effort to carry naloxone in both of our bags whenever we outside the building and felt confident in our training that we could do everything possible to aid the individual until the emergency services arrived at the scene. Fortunately, all our of encounters so far have had positive outcomes and this is directly related to administering naloxone" Ian, Assertive Case Managment Project Worker



"My first experience administering naloxone was as a student during a night shift in an isolation unit. A room check was being carried out when we found a woman unconscious in her bed overdosing. I completed my naloxone training and was confident that I would be able to assist her to the best of my ability in the given situation. Throughout my placement I had several other encounters where myself, and a member of staff came across over doses when out on outreach. Luckily we carried naloxone and the required PPE at all times and were always ready to assist. Coming across this so often on the streets of Dublin was a shock to me as before working for this sector I held the belief that overdosing wasn't a regular occurrence and definitely not in broad day light with streets filled of people" Kim, Dublin Services Project Worker



"From working on the Assertive Case Management Team (ACMT) in south Dublin, as we are mainly outreach based, we have come across many overdoses in alley ways or even on the busy high streets. Therefore, naloxone is critical in our work to prevent overdoses becoming fatal. An incident that sticks out to us on our team was, when we came across a young gentleman sitting unresponsive beside a busy shopping center on the south side of Dublin. We approached the young man to see if he would respond. When he did not respond we rang emergency services. They advised us to administer naloxone if it was available to us. We administered two shots of naloxone while waiting for emergency services to arrive. The young man responded to the second shot of naloxone. As a team we reassured him he was safe and made him feel comfortable while we continued to monitor his breathing for the emergency services. As an outreach worker naloxone is like a safety net for us. We feel reassured, and respect that when approaching an overdose situation naloxone can be the difference between life and death"

Aoife & Francesca, Assertive Case Management Team Project Workers



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"During one of the early COVID-19 lockdowns, I was walking to work and noticed a guy slumped over on a step. I didn't know him, I went over to try to see if he was ok. I could hear a deep snore and he wasn't responding to me at all, he was slumped over his knees, eyes shut and very pale.

I rang an ambulance and then whipped out my naloxone! During the pandemic, I got into a habit of carrying naloxone in my handbag because the streets were so deserted and the emergency services were so busy, all of us in Ana Liffey needed to be able to respond to an OD immediately if we came across one on outreach or on the walk home.

I gave the man 2 doses of naloxone, one after another after waiting a few minutes between them and realising that he wasn't responding after the first dose. He began to respond to me and the ambulance arrived about 30 minutes later and took him away to hospital. I was so glad I had naloxone that day, especially because I couldn't dive in and do CPR because I didn't have the proper gear with me to do it safely without potentially spreading COVID-19" Dawn, Head of Services



For more information on
the Ana Liffey Drug Project
go to

<https://www.aldp.ie>

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