

**JOINT EVENT**3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on  
Forensic Psychology & Criminology3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on  
Addictive Behavior and Dual Diagnosis

August 16-17, 2018 | Stockholm, Sweden

**Effective involvement of those with lived experience of addiction in strategy, policy and practice****Sunny Dhadley**

Service User Involvement Team, UK

SUIT (Service User Involvement Team) is widely recognized as a model of the best practice in the UK for the involvement and influence of those with lived experience of addiction, in relation to addiction treatment evaluation, intervention and role modeling. Established in February 2007, the project initially held a remit of advocacy and consultation. Throughout the process of consultation and continual dialogue, the project grew organically to then enhance the service offer, based on two main factors: the experiences of those that use substances and the inability of different systems to effectively offer services that met the need of those that use substances. SUIT have demonstrated that with little comparative funding but with a high level of innovation that the needs of those with addiction issues can be met in a holistic manner, by making best use of resources and community empowerment measures. In 2016/17, SUIT received 2.4% of the drug/alcohol treatment local budget, with this SUIT supported 1072 vulnerable substance users and delivered 4266 one to one support sessions, making 5283 interventions that covered 72 areas of need (e.g. mental health, unemployment, homelessness, indebtedness etc.). Furthermore, SUIT worked with 486 individual companies, organizations and resources to meet individual need and each intervention cost was £24.74. Outside case management, SUIT deliver training and consultancy projects, organize community and recreational events and are strategic influencers. The volunteer program developed by SUIT was awarded the highest accolade available in the UK for community organizations, the Queens Award for Voluntary Service which is equivalent to MBE.

**Notes:**