

Crack & Cocaine Agenda

Learning Objectives, Agenda & Capability Framework Alignment

A two-session online course focusing on crack and cocaine, appropriate treatment and ways of working with this client group

Trainer: Tony D'Agostino	Company: TD Consultancy	Delivery: Online — 2 x 3-hour sessions	Edition: 2026
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Aims & Objectives of the Course

- Increase knowledge and awareness of the issues relating to crack and cocaine use
- Increase knowledge of how crack and cocaine is used and the effects upon individual's physiology and neurology
- Understand the possible effects on health, including cardiovascular, respiratory, mental health and BBV risks
- Understand how specific interventions at relevant stages can increase engagement and retention
- Understand current evidence for harm reduction, psychosocial interventions and relapse prevention
- Increase confidence and capability development in working with this client group

Session Agendas

Session One: Context, Different Types & Pharmacology 10:00am Start — Welcome & Course Overview 10:10am Who is using crack and cocaine — UK epidemiology & social context 10:30am Different types of cocaine (powder, freebase, crack) 10:45am Routes of using — snorting, smoking, injecting, freebasing 11:15am Break (15 minutes) 11:30am How the drug works — pharmacology & neuroscience 12:30am Health & psychiatric information 1:00pm Close & Q&A	Session Two: Assessment, Harm Reduction & Treatment 10:00am Start — Welcome & Session Overview 10:10am Patterns of use — binge, chronic, polydrug use 10:30am Harm reduction — safe smoking, injecting, naloxone, BBV 11:00am Attracting users to a service — engagement strategies 11:15am Break (15 minutes) 11:30am Assessment & care planning — trauma-informed approach 12:00pm Psychosocial interventions — MI, CBT, Node-link mapping 12:30pm Stages of recovery — Working with lapses / treatment tools & recovery capital 1:00pm Close & Q&A
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Capability Framework Alignment

This course aligns with the Capability Framework for the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Workforce (NHS England/ OHID, 2024), which underpins the 10-Year Strategic Plan for the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Workforce 2024–2034.

Capability Domain (NHS England / OHID, 2024)	Framework Section
Knowledge of the harm associated with the physical and psychological effects of stimulants including crack cocaine and powder cocaine, patterns of use including poly-drug use	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Application of Knowledge</i>
Knowledge of the nature, prevalence and patterns of cocaine and crack cocaine use in the UK, including county lines, criminal exploitation and racial equity considerations	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Application of Knowledge</i>
Ability to provide evidence-based harm reduction interventions for stimulant users, including NSP, naloxone and BBV prevention in line with NICE NG225 (2024)	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery</i>
Ability to deliver evidence-based psychosocial interventions including MI, contingency management and CBT-informed relapse prevention for stimulant use	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery</i>
Ability to carry out comprehensive, person-centred assessments of drug use and co-occurring psychological, social, financial and physical health needs	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Engagement, Assessment and Care Planning</i>
Ability to develop, implement and regularly review personalised, co-produced treatment and recovery care plans	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Engagement, Assessment and Care Planning</i>
Ability to personalise care for people from different groups, including those from ethnic minority backgrounds	<i>Drug and Alcohol Worker: Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery</i>
Recovery-oriented approach — working with individuals to build personal, social and community recovery capital	<i>Underpinning Principle: All Roles</i>
Challenging stigma — being alert to the ways negative perceptions can influence practice	<i>Underpinning Principle: All Roles</i>

Underpinning Principles Embedded in This Course

Trauma-informed care • Recovery-oriented approach • Evidence-based practice • Person-centred working • Forming a working alliance • Therapeutic optimism • Challenging stigma • Co-occurring needs and multidisciplinary working

Note: *National Occupational Standards (DANOS/NOS) are retained within the National Occupational Standards library but are no longer the primary workforce development reference for the drug and alcohol treatment and recovery sector. This course uses the NHS England / OHID Capability Framework (2024) as its primary alignment standard.*