The 2016 Psychoactive Substances Act takes a broader approach than the MDA, as it criminalises the production of any substance capable of producing a psychoactive effect, but the definition excludes substances such as alcohol, caffeine, and nicotine, which also fall under this definition (Transform, n.d.).

A House of Commons report states that UK drugs policy is failing and urges the government to take a harm reduction approach (Parliament. House of Commons, 2019).

The consequences of criminalising people who use drugs often outweigh the risk that they face from drug use, and there is not convincing evidence that this criminalisation prevents wider drug use or drug-related harm (Holland, 2020).

Punishment as a means of deterrence is unethical, and punishment for drug production is often ineffective and have negative side effects (Holland, 2020).

Birmingham

(Nomis, n.d.), so this large proportion,

There are estimated to be approximately 22,500 opiate and/or crack users in the West Midlands, 1.2% of the population (Strategic Policing and Orime Board, 2017). This large number of users,

Many drug-

and mental health to deteriorate, meaning they may require urgent medical assistance (Rehab Olinics Group, 2019), which could be avoided through proper treatment.

Conclusion/ Recommendations

and all cultures must be represented; and as bo -related deaths are due to opiates, then it is important to look at how they conduct their policy and the effects that it has.

Neither country seems to have had a great deal of success with their drug policies, as both usage and death statistics have risen I either country since the implementation of their respective drug policies. ession,

improved by changing the way that things are done, after reflecting on these policies.

Reducing opioid-related deaths requires the scale-up of naloxone provision, central funding for heroin assisted treatment, and the consideration of the establishment of safer drug consumption rooms in areas with high concentrations of injecting drug use (Parliament. House of Commons, 2019). This would be useful in Birmingham city centre, where a major concentration of discarded needles were found, indicating the scale of substance misuse in the city centre (Strategic Policing and Orime Board, 2017).92 reW*nBT/F2 11.04 922T/F2 13.9d27D 4(en)12(t)-3(as a)10(m)3(eans)10(o)-5(f)9(d)3(et

ways to consume said drugs, and effective and accessible treatment services is to allow the legal regulation of drugs (Holland, 2020).

Overall, Birmingham must implement a harm reduction approach to maximise safety

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