

This year Kendal Calling were delighted to be one of the first festivals to offer The Loop's ground-breaking Multi Agency Safety Testing (MAST) on site in July 2016.

As festival organisers, we work very closely with our colleagues in the Police Force to do everything we can to prevent controlled substances being brought on to site, and to actively pursue those suspected of drug dealing.

Despite these stringent measures, we have to accept that there will be some substances in circulation, and we have a duty of care to minimise the risk to festival-goers.

The MAST testing service offered by The Loop allowed our customers to come and test substances of concern and then undertake a harm reduction session with a trained drug worker. Following the session, we found that 1 in 5 customers then chose to amnesty remaining substances that they had on them.

Having the pop-up lab on site also meant we were able to continually test and identify substances confiscated during seizures and deposited into amnesty bins as well as samples given to medics. Working closely with the Police and Professor Measham we could, when necessary, put out harm reduction messaging via our digital channels.

We feel that MAST is a radical but absolutely necessary festival provision. It has been one of the most effective new harm reduction measures we have been able to put in place at Kendal Calling. Quite simply, there is no other Welfare Provider offering this kind of service that safeguards and protects our customers in such a unique and forward-thinking way.

Jon Drape


Director, Engine No. 4


Director, The Loop


Jon is also Events Director, Kendal Calling, Parklife, Festival No.6, Blue Dot, Snowbombing and many more...



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