

The Warehouse Project has worked closely with The Loop since it first started and has supported its growth from a fledgling Manchester-based volunteer service to the national NGO that it has expanded into.

On the opening night of The Warehouse Project season, 27th September 2013, sadly, Nick Bonnie died from a drugs overdose. On a personal level, this is something that will never leave me. There isn't a day that goes by without me thinking about the tragedy or his family. What could we have done to avoid the tragedy, is a question that I ask myself time and time again. The actual answer is nothing. We were already going above and beyond what we were expected to do. We run one of the most stringent policies in the country.

I was very much aware of Professor Fiona Measham prior to the tragedy. In fact, we had already scheduled Fiona Measham to work alongside the Home Office at some WHP events to test confiscated drugs. Literally from the tragedy, to the end of the series of 2013 events, The Loop and Fiona Measham helped us to educate our crowd. The Loop attended each and every event. Our customer feedback from the presence of The Loop was incredible.

Since that night in September 2013, The Loop has delivered a welfare and harm reduction service at every Warehouse Project event, and at the Parklife Weekender since the summer of 2013. Each autumn at the start of the new WHP autumn season, our staff receive updated drugs awareness training from The Loop's professional trainers. Over the years The Loop's team has grown not only in size but in enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication to the welfare of our customers.

Furthermore, together with the support of Greater Manchester Police, the Loop has pioneered a unique forensic testing service at the Warehouse Project and at Parklife since 2013 to help inform emergency services on-site and reduce drug-related incidents. We are proud to say that the Warehouse Project was the first (and to date is still the only) nightclub in the UK that conducts forensic testing on site for public safety. With Fiona's understanding of drug markets and my understanding of the clubbing scene, Fiona and I work closely together to respond rapidly to any potentially dangerous drugs in circulation and flag up concerns in periodic social media alerts, such as the misselling of methoxetamine as ketamine and the sale of very high purity ecstasy pills, both of which resulted in hospitalisations. The Warehouse Project and The Loop were also the first organisations in the UK to flag up concerns about the deadly red Superman pills. Data collected at our events then feeds in to the largest and longest running academic study of trends in recreational drug use in the UK by Durham University, to inform and improve customer welfare in the night time economy.

We believe that this partnership has helped to reduce drug-related incidents at our events. We are delighted to see how The Loop has grown and will continue to work closely with them as they expand across the UK and Europe. Moving forward, we will always ask for The Loop's support, whether it is the WHP, Parklife or elsewhere. In return, we will also support them, nominating them as one of our official chosen charities.


***Sacha Lord-Marchionne***  
**Director, The Warehouse Project**



[www.wearetheloop.org](http://www.wearetheloop.org)

 WeAreTheLoopUK

 WeAreTheLoopUK

 TheLoop\_UK