I first started working alongside The Loop during the 2013 season of The Warehouse Project. As part of the event medical provision, I regularly have to treat patients who are under the influence of recreational drugs, both legal and illegal, some of which are life-threatening.

Having staff from The Loop on hand has proved to be invaluable, not just due to their extensive knowledge of the recreational drug scene, but also because of their calm and collected approach to welfare. We have been able to make use of volunteers from The Loop to build trust with patients who might be nervous of talking to uniformed ambulance personnel. Because of their non-judgemental approach and focus on harm reduction, some of my patients who have refused to tell me what has been taken have subsequently told volunteers from The Loop, thus allowing me to provide the necessary medical treatments.

I have been impressed by the commitment of the staff at The Loop to their mission, and how they have been so reliable not only in terms of their knowledge and experience, but also in their approach to the practical consistencies of staffing events with their volunteers. I have come to rely on individuals such as Chris, Gemma and Fiona as one of my first ports of call of advice and recommendations on how best to plan for patients under the influence of recreational drugs.

This was key in the preparation for The Parklife Weekender 2013, where I met with The Loop on several occasions to help plan the medical provision for the event. Having their knowledge allows me to ensure we have the right plans in place for each event being covered, and The Loop provided us with vital and up to the minute information about treatment for common recreational drugs in advance of the event.

The involvement of The Loop has directly led to better patient care at both The Warehouse Project and The Parklife Weekender, and the relationship between medical staff and volunteers from The Loop has gone from strength to strength. I look forward to working alongside them at future events, and know that their mission is not only invaluable and necessary, but specifically has led to real lives being saved.

**Pete Morris Manchester Medical Services** 









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