



**DSM** foundation  
The drug education charity

2025-26

**Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation**

Drug and alcohol education for workplaces



Supporting young people to make safer choices about drugs  
Company no. 08863937 | Charity no. 1158921 (CCEW) | SC052164 (OSCR)

# ABOUT US



The Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation is a drug and alcohol education charity founded by Tim and Fiona Spargo-Mabbs in response to the death of their son Daniel, after an accidental overdose of ecstasy. Part of a loving family and the younger of two boys, Dan was bright, articulate, popular, kind, funny and talented, and one of the very last people anyone would have expected to come to harm from drugs. And yet, on 17th January 2014, Dan collapsed at an illegal rave and died three days later. He was just 16 years old.

[www.dsmfoundation.org.uk](http://www.dsmfoundation.org.uk)

The DSM Foundation believes that every young person should have access to effective, evidence-based drug and alcohol education, so that they develop the knowledge, life skills and resilience they need to make informed and safer choices when in situations involving substances. Ultimately, it is about young people getting home safely, and helping their friends to do the same. The charity is based in South London and its work has spread rapidly across the UK and beyond since its inception just over a decade ago, primarily through word of mouth and recommendation.



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# INTRODUCING FIONA SPARGO-MABBS OBE

Fiona Spargo-Mabbs was working in family learning for the local authority when she lost her beloved son Dan in 2014. Her resolve to try and prevent the same tragedy befalling other young people – and impacting their family, friends and community – was cemented when she discovered that Dan hadn't had any drug education, and so she set up the charity that bears his name.

The DSM Foundation doesn't simply tell Dan's story; it is a multi-component programme for young people and the adults in their lives that equips them with knowledge and skills to inform behaviours and conversations. The programme is mapped to an international evidence base of what is most effective in drug and alcohol education and to European standards of good practice, and has been evaluated by several academic institutions, including under government funding.



All provision is updated and reviewed on an annual basis – and more often as needed – to ensure content is current and relevant, and delivered by individuals with the experience and expertise to maintain the highest standards. Directly delivered provision is tailored to the needs of the audience, both by liaising with those engaging the charity, but also with those who will be attending a session by establishing their requirements ahead of time, and ensuring there are opportunities for interaction and to ask questions during sessions.

*If you want a speaker who will capture everyone's attention and inspire then look no further than Fiona.*

**Chris Pitt, Group Impact Director at Benefact Group**

The DSM Foundation's values of quality, compassion and connection run through all the charity's work. Everything happens under the careful stewardship of Fiona, who remains the DSM Foundation's director as well as founder, and in 2022 was awarded an OBE for her services to young people. Her resilience in setting up the charity in the most heartbreaking circumstances, her experience in working with young people and the adults in their lives, and her determination to make drug education the very best it can be, combine to make her an inspirational and engaging speaker for events such as management away days and corporate conferences.



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# SESSIONS FOR EMPLOYEES WHO ARE PARENTS

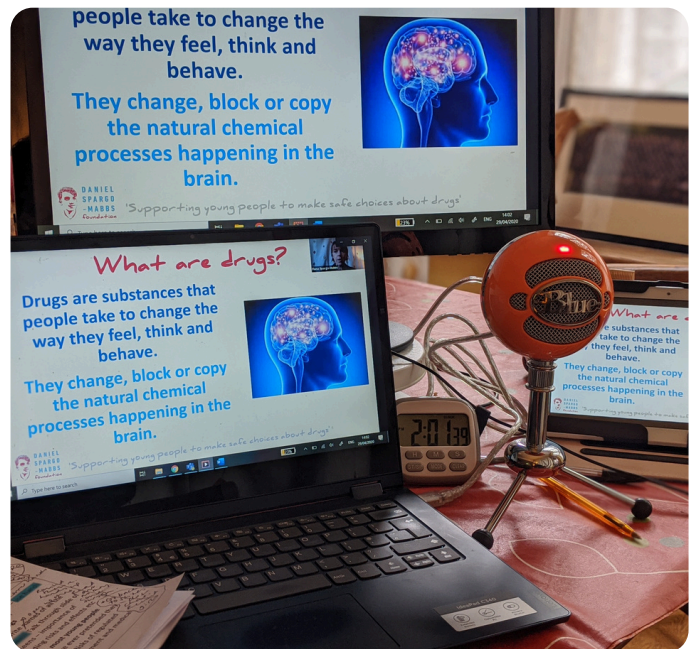
Parents and caregivers have a significant influence over their children, but can feel nervous about broaching the topic of drugs and alcohol with teenagers in particular, fearing that they may be out of touch, or anxious that they might be suggesting something that hadn't even been considered!

Called 'I Wish I'd Known - drugs, decisions and young people', our engaging workshops cover the current context for young people in relation to drugs and alcohol, adolescent brain development and decision making, practical strategies and advice, and approaching what can feel like difficult conversations, whether pre-emptive or reactive. Questions can be submitted by attendees ahead of time and during sessions, which can be delivered in person or by webinar, and are a popular "lunch and learn" option for companies looking to support those among their workforce who have teenagers, pre-teens, or young adults in their lives.

*I had no idea how to talk to my children about drugs and now I do - I put my new skills into practice three days later!*  
**Parent, 2025**

*The session was very informative and helped fill some gaps in my understanding. It was definitely worth attending!*  
**Parent, 2025**

*Genuinely one of the best presentations/workshops I've attended. I could have listened for hours. Walked away having learnt a lot about a subject that scares every parent, but also reassured that things I already do are in the right direction. It gave risks in a really constructive manner, overlaying them with useful advice and ways to learn more.*  
**Parent, 2025**



**I Wish I'd Known**  
A workshop for parents and carers about young people, drugs and decisions  
from the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation

*Such an engaging session, the feedback has been wonderful.*  
**Employer, 2025**

# DRUG EDUCATION THROUGH DRAMA

One of the first things that the DSM Foundation did after coming into being in 2014 was commission award-winning playwright Mark Wheeler to write a play that tells Dan's story. He spent weeks and months conducting interviews with the people who knew Dan best – his family and friends – and what emerged is named for the final words he said to his mum Fiona before he set out on that fateful night: 'I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die'.

The powerful verbatim play is seen by thousands of young people every year through DSM Foundation-commissioned tours of schools and colleges in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and reaches many more through further performances, its inclusion as a set text in the Eduqas GCSE Drama syllabus, and two professionally filmed versions, one featuring a cast from Scotland and the other from England.

Companies that have provided the play do so knowing how much impact it makes for a relatively modest fee, and are aware of how many of their employees are likely to find themselves in situations involving drugs, either directly or second-hand through their children, other family members, friends, or colleagues.



**Comment from an employee in a company that provided the filmed version of 'I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die' for its staff**

*The play was the perfect tool to prompt an open and frank family discussion about drugs that wouldn't have happened in the way that it did without it – it is a brilliant resource that in my view should be accessible to all families and I feel very lucky that we had access to it.*

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# DRUG AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR EMPLOYEES

The DSM Foundation has two offerings for employees:

- Workshops for young adults (18-25 years of age) in the early stages of their careers for example, apprentices, recent graduates, interns, etc., either in person or live-streamed. These interactive sessions run through the context for young adults when it comes to drugs, and provide advice on staying safe, including aspects such as dealing with workplace stress.
- Sessions for line managers on supporting younger employees who may be vulnerable to the impacts of alcohol and drug use due to factors such as experiencing workplace (and other) pressures, being in new situations such as workplace entertaining or events, and having more disposable income than they have had in the past.

A half day is recommended for the above, as they are very interactive, but the DSM Foundation's bespoke approach means a meaningful session can be delivered in as little as an hour if that is all that is available.

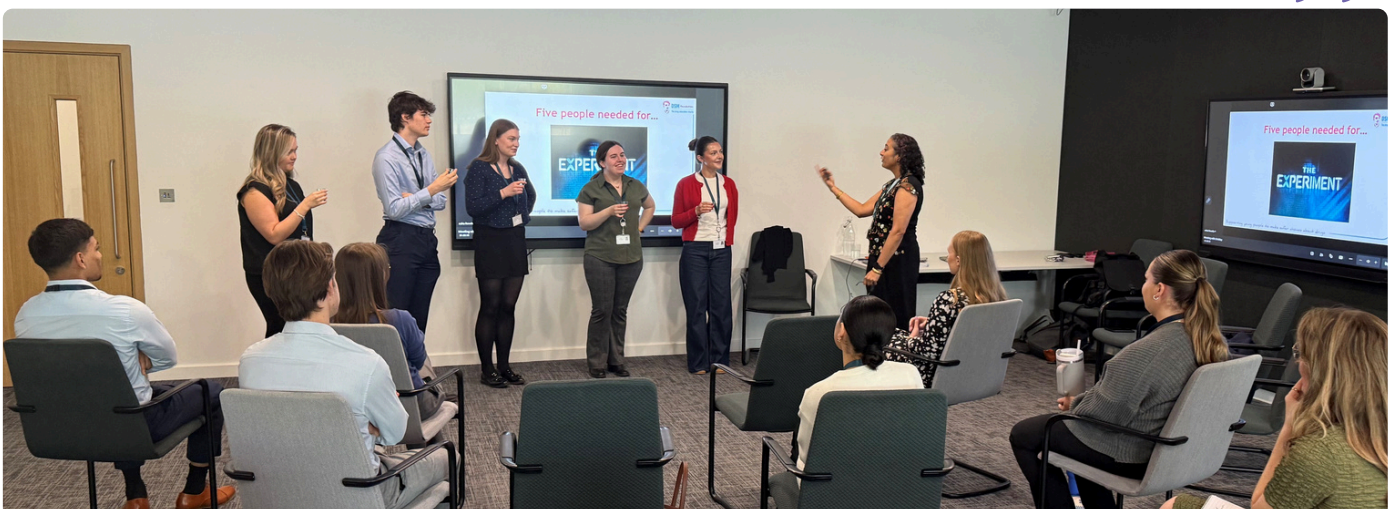
Contact [bookings@dsmfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bookings@dsmfoundation.org.uk) for more information.

## Testimonials from previous early career workshop attendees:

*Very interactive and open space to ask questions... loved how the survey beforehand tailored the workshop itself.*

*Understanding more about each type of drug, such as what they are, how they are taken and the effects, was really insightful.*

*It was useful to learn information on how to help others that need help or spot that they need it.*



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# CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

We are very grateful to have developed ongoing relationships with a number of organisations, and we'd love to work with other companies whose values align with ours, to develop mutually beneficial long-term partnerships.

Our corporate partners and their staff play a key role in working to ensure that young people are empowered with the knowledge, life-skills and confidence to make safer choices about drugs and alcohol. By becoming a partner, you become a part of the DSM Foundation's lifesaving work, which will have a positive impact on your organisation and employees. As such, you will create a meaningful impact against a backdrop of the charity providing practical solutions to real business issues.

We recognise that every partnership is unique and must be tailored to address the needs of your company. We will work with you to create a partnership that stems from a shared purpose with DSM Foundation and will provide a big benefit for your business.

## Comments from our current corporate partners:



*Part of what we do as an organisation and in the way we think as a Foundation is to connect to charities where our colleagues may have some exposure or connection to the problem – we can think of things such as cancer and dementia, where most people have a connection to these issues. Given we have a lot of parents on the payroll, they will all have to deal with, in one way or another, children who may be tempted to experiment with drugs... unlike most other things our children will try, one of the potential consequences in experimenting with drugs is death, and Dan's story is incredibly effective at communicating that.*

**Derek Stuart, Chairman of the Artemis Charitable Foundation**



*We were really lucky to have Fiona speak at our global leadership conference, her story is hugely compelling and had a big impact on our senior leaders, and that led directly to working with Fiona and her team as part of one of our leadership programmes. We're really happy to have made the connection with the DSM Foundation and what began as a single point of contact, has grown into a meaningful, varied partnership.*

**Penny Brown, Group Learning and Leadership Director  
at Benefact Group**



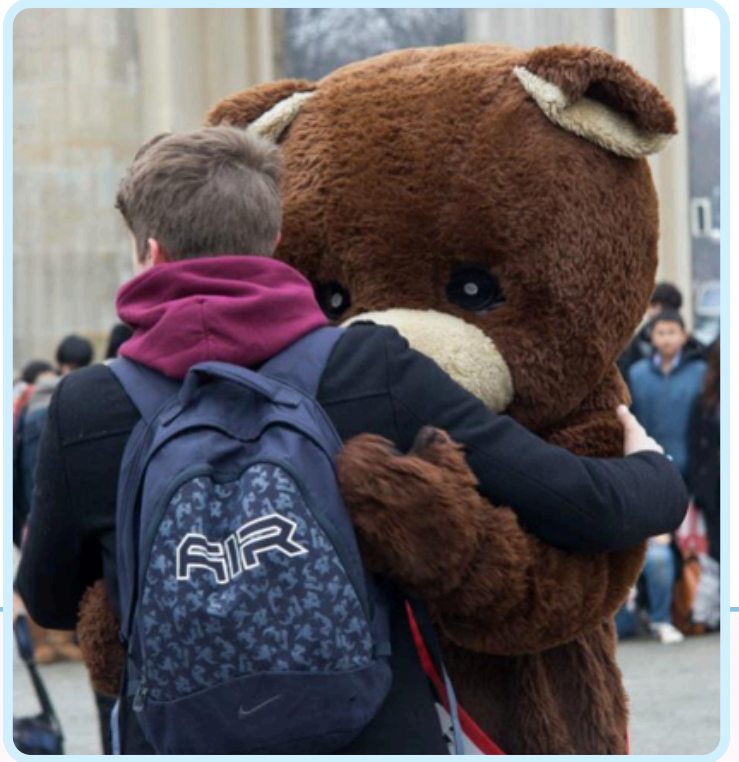
Get in touch with [fundraising@dsmfoundation.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@dsmfoundation.org.uk) to discuss this further.

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**DANIEL  
SPARGO  
-MABBS**  
foundation

The drug education charity



## Support our work

### Make a donation:

[www.dsmfoundation.org.uk/donate/](http://www.dsmfoundation.org.uk/donate/)

### Become a Friend of the Foundation:

[www.dsmfoundation.org.uk/friend-of-the-foundation/](http://www.dsmfoundation.org.uk/friend-of-the-foundation/)

## Find us online

### Access all of our online platforms:

[linktr.ee/dsmfoundation](http://linktr.ee/dsmfoundation)



## Contact us

### General enquiries:

[admin@dsmfoundation.org.uk](mailto:admin@dsmfoundation.org.uk)

### Bookings:

[bookings@dsmfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bookings@dsmfoundation.org.uk)

### Corporate and community fundraising:

[fundraising@dsmfoundation.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@dsmfoundation.org.uk)

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“  
We would highly recommend the DSM Foundation to any school or corporate organisation seeking to raise awareness around drugs and alcohol, promote safer decision-making, and support wellbeing in a meaningful and accessible way.  
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”  
**Current corporate partner**

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Charity no. 1158921 (CCEW) and SC052164 (OSCR) Company no. 08863937