

# STICKS AND STONES

STORIES ABOUT STIGMA



## WARNING!

Contains real life stories of drug use, miscarriage, child protection and other potentially triggering subjects

**TOXTECH**

Productions

Cast

David McGovern Julie Brown Louise Hickey  
Darren Hickey Ste Bolan Sarah Tootill  
Lorna Smythe Ian Whiteside

Music composed and performed

Daisy Dorothy Music (c)

Produced by

Toxtech Productions in collaboration  
with CGL St Helens Film Group

Edited by

Toxteth O'Grady

Written and Directed by

Andy Bourne



CGL ST HELENS  
FILM GROUP  
1980-1990  
Productions

# 'Sticks and Stones'

*Is Stigma a hidden harm in plain sight?*

*A team of people with lived-experience of drug and alcohol use set out to understand why stigma stops people getting the support they need.*

Treatment by Andy Bourne – CGL St Helens Film Group  
With – ToxTech Productions

# Stigma

'Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.'

A proverb from childhood often used as a retort when taunted or insulted. A showing of strength and resistance in the face of challenge and abuse. But do words hurt or harm? Can language and stigma be a hidden harm for people who are struggling with substance use problems?

'A broken bone will fix in 6 weeks, but language and stigma cut deep.'

COMING SOON

2024

CGL ST HELENS FILM GROUP



## Sticks and STONES

Do words really hurt?

Is stigma a hidden harm in plain sight?

A team of people with lived-experience of drug and alcohol services set out to identify why stigma stops people getting the support they need.

And how it can be changed.





## Synopsis

'Sticks and stones' focuses on a number of people who use drug and alcohol services' long journey to recovery and experiences through childhood, childbirth, and everyday life experiences. Focussing on the harms suffered by those facing stigma.

Driven by a report from the NHS identifying the serious internal concerns from stigma within its own services, Julie, along with a small group of people affected by substance use, through poems, artwork, and interviews, challenge the often negative and irrational views many have of those who use substances. By telling of their personal stories, often shocking and harrowing, they set out to educate others around the harms of language and stigmatisation, which can exclude people from getting support, and can ultimately kill.

# Story Arc

## ACT 1

Following the report released by the NHS, which looked into problems regarding stigmatising language and practice, the group identify there is a societal problem with regards stigma towards drug and alcohol users.

The group set out to explore experiences of stigma, why it remains, what are the harms and how can they start to challenge and change them.

## ACT 2

The group, using a series of artwork, animation and interviews, head out to document individual experiences, and stories they, and others, have faced.

The group confront the findings and desperation initially fills them with a feeling of hopelessness as to whether they can possibly change things going forward. They plan to act.

## ACT 3

The team get together to put into action changes they feel are needed.

The team involve the service user group and meetings to set out a charter/actions/training/media campaign to spread the message and clearly state intentions to change.

An inspiration and plan to succeed is formed and developed.

# Locations

The whole documentary will be based in the borough of St Helens, but will feature locations in the wider Merseyside region.

Filming will also take place in partner agencies/services/places where people wish to be involved with the project.

Examples of this:

CGL St Helens

Bright Start Homes

St Helens YMCA and Salvation Army

Come Together Hub

Making Space

Teardrops

The Deaf Centre – St Helens



## Budget Sticks and stones

United Kingdom (GBP)

| "A" Above the Line |             |                |                |              |                |              |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| acct               | description | estimated      | actual         | paid         | payable        | variance     |
| 02.00              | STORY       | £0.00          | £0.00          | £0.00        | £0.00          | £0.00        |
| 05.00              | DIRECTOR    | £580.00        | £580.00        | £0.00        | £580.00        | £0.00        |
| <b>Total:</b>      |             | <b>£580.00</b> | <b>£580.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> | <b>£580.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> |

| "B" Production |                        |                  |                  |              |                  |              |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| acct           | description            | estimated        | actual           | paid         | payable          | variance     |
| 10.00          | CAST                   | £240.00          | £240.00          | £0.00        | £240.00          | £0.00        |
| 12.00          | PRODUCTION STAFF       | £400.00          | £400.00          | £0.00        | £400.00          | £0.00        |
| 13.00          | DESIGN LABOR           | £0.00            | £0.00            | £0.00        | £0.00            | £0.00        |
| 15.00          | SET DRESSING LABOR     | £320.00          | £320.00          | £0.00        | £320.00          | £0.00        |
| 22.00          | CAMERA LABOR           | £1,520.00        | £1,520.00        | £0.00        | £1,520.00        | £0.00        |
| 25.00          | PRODUCTION SOUND LABOR | £400.00          | £400.00          | £0.00        | £400.00          | £0.00        |
| 38.00          | PROPS                  | £150.00          | £150.00          | £0.00        | £150.00          | £0.00        |
| 45.00          | CAMERA EQUIPMENT       | £760.00          | £760.00          | £0.00        | £760.00          | £0.00        |
| 48.00          | SOUND EQUIPMENT        | £480.00          | £480.00          | £0.00        | £480.00          | £0.00        |
| <b>Total:</b>  |                        | <b>£4,270.00</b> | <b>£4,270.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> | <b>£4,270.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> |

## Budget

This budget summary is based on scrutinising industry standard costs, whilst taking into account an ability to make savings by utilising the script, producer and editing castings as gratis. This has already been secured.

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Pre-production</b>  | £2880         |
| <b>Production</b>      | £9720         |
| <b>Post-production</b> | £8220         |
| <b>TOTAL:</b>          | <b>£20820</b> |

*Desired budget, although made for £2300*

| "C" Post Production |                           |                |                |              |                |              |
|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| acct                | description               | estimated      | actual         | paid         | payable        | variance     |
| 60.00               | EDITORIAL LABOR           | £720.00        | £720.00        | £0.00        | £720.00        | £0.00        |
| 62.00               | POST PRODUCTION (PICTURE) | £0.00          | £0.00          | £0.00        | £0.00          | £0.00        |
| 63.00               | POST PRODUCTION (SOUND)   | £0.00          | £0.00          | £0.00        | £0.00          | £0.00        |
| 66.00               | MUSIC                     | £0.00          | £0.00          | £0.00        | £0.00          | £0.00        |
| <b>Total:</b>       |                           | <b>£720.00</b> | <b>£720.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> | <b>£720.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> |

| "B & C" Production and Post Production |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|                  |  | estimated        | actual           | paid         | payable          | variance     |
|------------------|--|------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Subtotal:</b> |  | <b>£4,990.00</b> | <b>£4,990.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> | <b>£4,990.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> |

| "D" Other |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| acct          | description | estimated      | actual         | paid         | payable        | variance     |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 80.00         | CONTINGENCY | £500.00        | £500.00        | £0.00        | £500.00        | £0.00        |
| <b>Total:</b> |             | <b>£500.00</b> | <b>£500.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> | <b>£500.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> |

|                     |  |                  |                  |              |                  |              |
|---------------------|--|------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>Grand Total:</b> |  | <b>£6,370.00</b> | <b>£6,370.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> | <b>£6,370.00</b> | <b>£0.00</b> |
|---------------------|--|------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|

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# Distribution

Sticks and Stones is part of a wider campaign to highlight the effects of stigma on people accessing drug and alcohol services.

The documentary will be shared and used by services as part of a training package, and there will also be 'bite-sized' 1 minute films to be shown in surgery waiting rooms, etc.



WE ARE MAKING A  
DOCUMENTARY:  
'STICKS AND STONES'

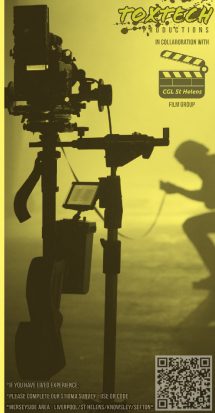
DO YOU HAVE 'LIVED  
EXPERIENCE' OF DRUG  
AND ALCOHOL SERVICES?\*

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:  
YOUR STORIES.  
YOUR ENTHUSIASM  
CREW MEMBERS.  
NO EXPERIENCE  
NECESSARY.  
THERE'S A ROLE FOR YOU!

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT:  
ANDY.BOURNE@TOCKYTV.UK

ANDREW.BOURNE@CGL.ORG.UK

TOCKY  
PRODUCTIONS  
IN COLLABORATION WITH



\*IF YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE

PLEASE COMPLETE OUR STIGMA SURVEY - USE QR CODE

\*MERSEYSIDE AREA - LIVERPOOL / ST HELENS / KNOWSLEY / SEFTON





**THANK YOU**

[TTProductions@tockytv.uk](mailto:TTProductions@tockytv.uk)

[www.tockytv.uk](http://www.tockytv.uk)

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Jack & Wolskin



CGL STIGMA  
FILM GROUP  
100% TOXTECH  
PRODUCTIONS

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STE BOYLON  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
CLEAR MINDS

