



## Annotating Articles

The power of the **red** pen! This short activity will give you the space to highlight bits and pieces of media articles that you think are either well written or could be changed.

Together we must highlight in the media where images, wording and stories are reinforcing stereotypes and may be causing harm to people in recovery. We also have to highlight where there is a positive light being shined on recovery and people are treated with dignity and respect.

So, get yourself a red pen and get ready to rewrite recovery!

This activity can take roughly 10-20 minutes depending on the number of articles you chose. It can be done as an individual activity or used as part of a group discussion.

### Annotating Articles Activity:

- 1) Print out or download onto your computer the articles we have included in the discussion pack (named Annotating Articles Activity Pack). We have included some articles we used in our original workshop, but you can choose any article you like from newspapers, magazines, or off the internet.
- 2) Read through the whole article once so that you know what story is being covered.
- 3) Using your red pen (or if doing this activity on the computer use a word editor such as Microsoft Word), start highlighting, underlining and making notes where you think it's well written, or where you think things could be changed.

Some things to think about:

*What is the tone of the headline?*

*What images are being used? Do they work well with the article?*

*Has anyone been interviewed?*

*What's the overall tone of the article?*

*Has information on support services been included?*

*What's missing from the article?*

- 4) After you have finished annotating one article, go on to another and see if there are similar patterns or if there are differences.
- 5) If having a group discussion, talk through the articles and your annotations. Someone may have also highlighted what you have, some people might have something different. Discuss how the article made you felt.
- 6) We would love to see your finished annotated articles. You can include an image on social media and use the hashtag #RewritingRecovery and tag us on Twitter @ScotFamADrugs and @SRConsortium. You can also send us a copy to [rebecca@sfad.org.uk](mailto:rebecca@sfad.org.uk) or [danielle@scottishrecoveryconsortium.org](mailto:danielle@scottishrecoveryconsortium.org)

Insert Standard Stigmatising Image Here...

*Annotating Articles Activity*

Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs – [www.sfad.org.uk](http://www.sfad.org.uk)

Scottish Recovery Consortium – [www.scottishrecoveryconsortium.org](http://www.scottishrecoveryconsortium.org)