

Public Health Partnership Working

Drug and Alcohol Services



Public Health teams commission these services and rely on all of their partners to support appropriate access into treatment

Collaborative partnerships between the Police, National Probation Service (NPS), Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC) and Community Safety staff are important to ensure pathways and referral mechanisms into treatment are made at the earliest opportunity

For example, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) funded arrangements for Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATRs) and Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs) supporting NPS and CRCs with court related assessments can aid people getting into treatment

As the prevalence of drug and alcohol related unmet needs increases it becomes more important for agreed pathways to be developed and reviewed across partners

Partnerships between the OPCC, NPS and CRC and integrated offender management leads for the Police work closely together to assess and recommend to the courts those who would benefit from treatment orders

Similarly, drug and alcohol service providers being involved on anti-social behaviour and street dwelling groups is designed to support an integrated approach to community based responses by a range of partners with the intention of reducing acquisitive crime and reducing vulnerable people being exposed to county lines and gang related activities

Work is ongoing to develop stronger connections and continuity of care arrangements for those leaving prison who are in need of treatment for drug or alcohol dependencies. Public Health England in the West Midlands are holding specific events with invites to all relevant partners to shape improvements to this agenda

On average only around 30% of people who need ongoing treatment upon release reach and access community treatment services

Dual Diagnosis and Treatment



Those with drug and alcohol dependencies often suffer from mental health related disorders

Often it is difficult to distinguish cause and effect when substance dependencies limit an effective assessment of mental health needs

NHS and Mental Health Services need to work much more closely together with these potential clients to address needs in tandem rather than treating substance misuse before treating mental health needs

Pilots to understand this agenda better are underway. Similarly, extended support following treatment and rehabilitation includes access to mental health and well being centres that enable people to attend a welcoming environment as part of their continued recovery and re-ablement

Health Protection and Screening

NHS England accredit providers such as pharmacies and GPs to provide the flu vaccine to a range of vulnerable groups

Currently this does not include those who are homeless and may be street dwellers or sofa surfing

Commissioners worked with the Drug and Alcohol local service provider and a homeless charity to risk assess, co-ordinate and fund a flu immunisation programme specifically for this group in an attempt to reduce hospital admissions and the onset of chronic ill health for this cohort of people as well as prevent unnecessary deaths. Many of this cohort have drug and or alcohol dependencies

Public Health Department



Blood Borne Virus Testing and Treatment



Hepatitis C is a treatable condition and nationally there is an attempt to eradicate it by 2025. An increased level of testing and outreach facilities where NHS colleagues and drug and alcohol service providers collaborate to scan, test and treat individuals will help to reduce the impact of liver disease. This is an increasing priority for all commissioners of drug and alcohol services

For further information please contact:

Kate Woolley

Interim Head of Public Health Commissioning

katewoolley@solihull.gov.uk

Match Fit Consultancy Limited – 07769 663693