



Continuity of Care Rates for Prison Leavers Needing Community Substance Use Treatment in Wakefield

An area of intense focus over the last 18 months has been individuals leaving prison and engaging with community substance use services for continued treatment.



Previous Engagement Rates:

As of April 2023, 41% of individuals leaving prison needing treatment in Wakefield engaged with the treatment service, delivered by Turning Point, within 3 weeks of their release.



Strategies for Improvement:

- To enhance engagement with prison leavers, the treatment service concentrated on improving working relationships with prison establishments and Wakefield Probation.
- In-reach work commenced in:
 - HMP Leeds
 - HMP Wealstun
 - HMP New Hall
- Digital in-reach was also implemented at prisons further afield, such as HMP Birmingham, HMP Hull, and HMP Lincoln. This approach allowed the service to build positive relationships with individuals prior to their release and to help remove barriers to accessing community treatment.



Collaborating with data analysts from Turning Point and prison establishments was crucial to improving engagement rates.



Results:

As a result of these initiatives, the Continuity of Care rate has increased to 85%.

The partnership has been essential, particularly regarding communication, which has facilitated better identification and engagement with individuals before their release.

Key Findings



Improved Engagement:

The percentage of prison leavers accessing community substance use services increased from 41% to 85% due to targeted in-reach efforts and enhanced partnerships.



Effective Strategies:

Establishing in-reach teams in prisons fostered trust and support, paving the way for smoother transitions into community services.



Collaboration Matters:

Continuous communication between Turning Point, prison establishments, and probation services led to more effective identification and support for individuals upon release.