









Substance Care Teams & Beyond: Enhancing hospital treatment for patients with substance use needs

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Background

- Record High Deaths: In 2023, drug-related deaths reached 5,448 (93 per million people).
- **Alcohol's Impact:** Fifth leading cause of death and disability in the UK.
- Health Risks: Problematic drug use can increase the likelihood of infectious diseases and chronic conditions like liver disease, cardiovascular problems, and mental health disorders.
- Wide-Ranging Effects: Alcohol causes cardiovascular disease, cancers, liver disease, and contributes to accidents, violence, and self-harm.
- Hospital Admissions: Over 1.1 million alcohol-related admissions annually, with 100,000 directly linked to alcohol dependence.
- High-Risk Group: Dependent drinkers are at the greatest risk of alcoholrelated conditions.
- NHS Shortcomings: Government's Drug Strategy found here was an 'insufficient focus on drugs and alcohol in NHS and mental health services.'

Service Evolution

NHS Long Term Plan (2019): Introduced Alcohol Care Teams (ACTs) in 50 hospitals, including Mid Yorkshire NHS Teaching Trust in Wakefield.

Dame Carol Black's Independent Review of Drugs (2019): Led to a 10-year Drug and Alcohol Strategy (2021) with a 3-year grant to enhance treatment and recovery.

In October 2023, Wakefield Council used the grant to fund 2 band 4 FTE Drug Advisors across the Trust. The ACT officially became a Substance Care Team, supporting patients that have substance use needs, as well as people experiencing problems with alcohol use.

Substance Care Teams...

- ✓ Are dedicated teams that provide targeted care in hospitals for patients with substance use issues.
- ✓ Work with various hospital departments to ensure coordinated and effective treatment.
- ✓ Aim to reduce bed days, hospital admissions, readmissions, and alcohol-related mortality rates.
- ✓ Work with people who are:
 - o over 18 years old **and have either**
 - o an audit C score of 7 or above for alcohol referrals **or**
 - be identified through initial assessment as taking other substances
- ✓ In Mid Yorks are made up of:
 - Head of clinical service
 - o Team leader
 - Band 6 Specialist Drug and Alcohol Practitioner
 - 6 band 4 Drug and Alcohol Advisors
 - Part-time administration support
 - Support from the Consultant in Acute Medicine who is linked to the team for service development.

Patients seen by Substance Type

We reduced inequalities in service provision in December 2023, when Kirklees Council used the grant to expand the service to Dewsbury Hospital.

Patients seen by the Substance Care Team 250 150 Nov 2022 — 2023 — 2024

Partnership Working

Change Grow Live & Kirklees & Turning Point (Wakefield):

- Navigators & Nurses/NMPs attend Trust twice weekly to engage patients and support their discharge into community services.
- Clinical team continue detoxes and manage alcohol prescribing.
- Daily meetings between community treatment providers and SCT to discuss hospitalised patients.
- Collaboration has reduced stigma and educated the wider health sector about substance use.

Commissioners from Kirklees & Wakefield Councils:

- Allocate resources to improving hospital care
- Promote the model/service
- Attend monthly steering groups to support strategically with operational delivery

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Referrals into Com	munity	/ Ire	atment*
			
eople eligible for referral, not all these	Reterrals to	Turnina	Reterrals to CC

Referrals line Corr	<u> </u>		
*People eligible for referral, not all these	Referrals to Turning	Referrals to CGL	
accessed community treatment	Point		
Jan-Dec 2023	444	185	
Jan- Oct 2024	845	326	
Total	1289	511	

——Alcohol —— Drugs —— Dual Usage

Jan-24 Feb-24 Mar-24 Apr-24 May-24 Jun-24

Interventions Completed: Medically Assisted Withdrawals and Welfare Calls

	<i>></i> 1	/	any As	3131 G G	A A 1111 /	41 G 11 C	iis aiia	770110		1110
	Year to date (2024)									
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
No. of Medically Assisted Withdrawals	0	0	1	50	24	47	46	55	43	266
No. of Welfare Calls * Implementation of welfare call	s 			16*	38	92	127	62	97	432