

Section 5: health promotion and preventative services

Drug misuse



a single version of the truth



Related briefings in the JSA for Health and Wellbeing

Briefing (and hyperlink)	Section
Substance misuse	Children and Young People
Alcohol	Health promotion and preventative services

Outcome Frameworks Summary

The Public Health Outcomes Framework for England, 2013-2016¹ outlines the overarching vision for public health as “to improve and protect the nation’s health and wellbeing, and improve the health of the poorest fastest”. The following indicators from this framework are relevant to this section.

Framework	Reference	Indicator
Public Health	2.15	Successful completion of drug treatment
Public Health	2.16	People entering prison with substance dependence issues who are previously not known to community treatment

Edition

Edition	Version no.	Changes/Comments
2012/13	1	N/A

Executive summary

Drug misuse results in increased health problems for drug users, impacts significantly on families, and is often a contributory factor to other social problems including anti-social behaviour and acquisitive crime.

The Wiltshire drug treatment system has continued to improve its performance throughout 2011/12. Concerted efforts will be made to build on this in order to reach Wiltshire's targets and to provide a treatment system that encourages throughput and meaningful engagement resulting in planned successful discharges and completions.

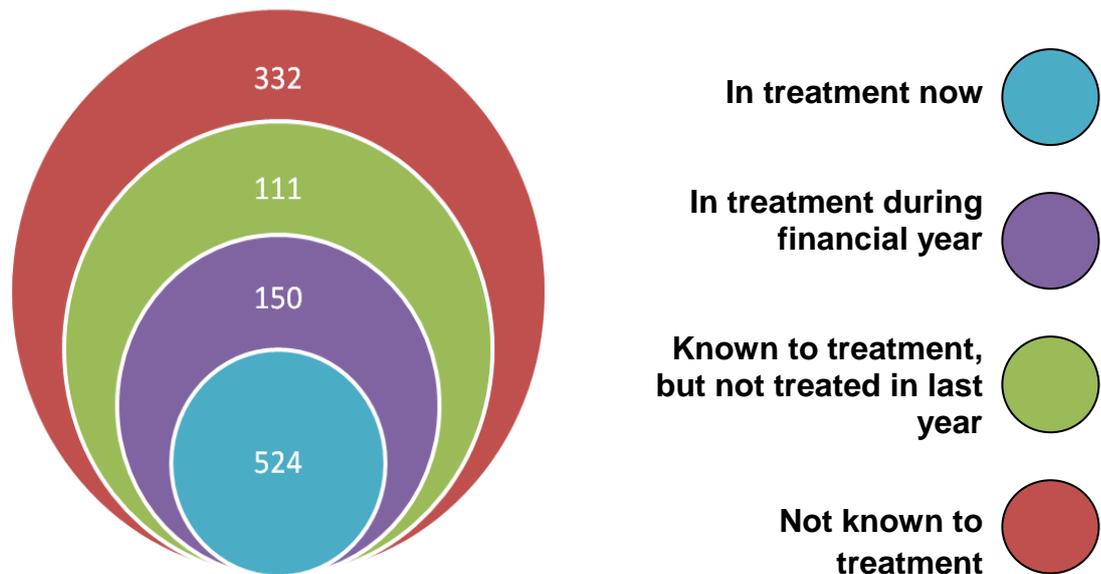
An annual drugs needs assessment informs development of services. A particular priority in Wiltshire is on supporting recovery of those in treatment, and coming out of treatment, by focusing on issues such as housing and employment in order to support individuals from relapsing.

What are the needs of the population

In Wiltshire, a comprehensive needs assessment of drugs misuse is undertaken each year. There were 724 individuals from Wiltshire registered in structured drug treatment (Tier 3 or 4) by the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) between April 2010 and March 2011² 68% of these were male, and the largest modal age group was 35 to 39 years old (23%). 90% of those registered were "problematic" drug users (defined as opiate and/ or crack users), of which 79% were using illicit heroin.

The number of people dependent on illicit drugs is estimated to be significantly higher than the number receiving treatment and registered on NDTMS. 9,318 people aged 18 to 64 are predicted to have a drug problem in Wiltshire in 2011, of which 66% are likely to be men³. By 2030 the number is predicted to rise to 9,471 people⁴. This projection is based on population profile changes.

Figure 1 shows the number of "problem" drug users, in treatment, in treatment within the last year, known to treatment and the estimated number not known to treatment in Wiltshire⁵. 2006/07 figures show Wiltshire to have a significantly lower percentage of "problem" drug users than either the South West or England⁶.

Figure 1: Estimated “problem” drug users in Wiltshire, 2010/11

Source: NDTMS

Why this area is important?

Drug misuse results in increased health problems for drug users, impacts significantly on families, and is often a contributory factor to other social problems including anti-social behaviour and acquisitive crime. Estimates suggest that the annual economic and social costs of Class A drug use in the UK to be around £15.4 billion in 2003/04⁷.

Current service provision

Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership is the responsible body for overseeing strategy and actions to reduce alcohol and drug related harms and overseeing commissioning and performance management of drug and alcohol (substance misuse) support, treatment and care services in Wiltshire. It discharges these duties through the Adult Joint Strategy and Commissioning Group for Alcohol and Drugs, and the Children and Young People’s Joint Commissioning Group.

The Community Safety Partnership places emphasis on services that are accessible, meet the needs of service users and maximise positive outcomes. The annual drugs needs assessment (see below) informs development of services. A particular focus for the Partnership is on supporting recovery of those in treatment, and coming out of treatment, by focusing on issues such as housing and employment in order to support individuals from relapsing.

Treatment services are cost effective and research suggests that for every £1 spent on adult drug treatment the public sector saves £2.50⁸.

Significant work has been undertaken on developing a Drug Related Deaths protocol to ensure that all such deaths are investigated and any lessons learnt about

engagement with services and additional support in order to try to prevent further drug related deaths from taking place.

An annual strategy is developed to address drugs misuse, based on a comprehensive assessment of need. The following outlines progress:

- A reduction in waiting times for support and treatment;
- An 37% increase from the previous year in the number of successful completions of drug treatment, with performance higher than the national average, and a similar reduction in unplanned discharges from treatment;
- New structured day services have been developed aimed particularly at cannabis users which has increased their engagement in treatment;
- Each year, a drug and alcohol training programme is delivered to almost 200 frontline professionals across a wide range of agencies: during 2010/11 behaviour change training was delivered to 53 professionals, with a further 30 receiving training in addressing steroids and performance enhancing drugs;
- Roll out of a specialist certificate in drugs misuse for GPs, practice nurses and pharmacists, and further joint management of drug users (shared care) between GPs and community drug services;
- Continued support for the Wiltshire Addiction Support Project (WASP) which provides a valuable role in supporting individuals to recover and stay recovered from drug (and alcohol) problems through peer support, harm reduction advice and advocacy services;
- Inclusion of drug (and alcohol) services as part of the Integrated Offender Management scheme in Wiltshire (SWITCH) and continued provision of drug services to offenders;
- Further development of links and aftercare services with housing, education and employment to support those who are recovering from drug (and alcohol) problems;
- Continued use of appropriate care planning tools to improve retention and progression through treatment by ensuring that all relevant aspects of life that have an impact on a service user's stabilisation, maintenance and then recovery and reintegration, are addressed;
- Screening and, as appropriate, immunization of drug users in order to reduce the risk of blood borne viruses as part of the harm reduction strategy.

Adult Drug Treatment Needs Assessment 2012/2013

The Wiltshire Needs Assessment for 2012/2013 has been compiled in line with National Treatment Agency (NTA) guidance to assess the Adult Drug Treatment needs of Wiltshire. The assessment is available here:

<http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=52491>

HMP Erlestoke Substance Misuse Needs Assessment 2012/13

Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership commissioned a Substance Misuse Needs Assessment 2012/2013 at Her Majesties Prison (HMP) Erlestoke (Clinically Enhanced Site Only). This was compiled to inform the HMP Erlestoke Substance Misuse Treatment Plan 2012/2013 and is available here:

<http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=52492>

JSNA Support Pack for Strategic Partners: Wiltshire

This pack sets out the investment in drug treatment in Wiltshire and the benefits this brings. It also gives key performance information about Wiltshire's treatment system and national data for comparison. It presents data from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS), the Treatment Outcomes Profile (TOP), the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) and estimates of the prevalence of opiate and/or crack cocaine use. Although drug treatment services treat dependence for all drugs, heroin users remain the group with most complex problems, so separate data is provided for them.

<http://www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/EasysiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=54378&servicetype=Attachment>

What works and what resources are there?

Wiltshire directory of drug and alcohol services⁹

Wiltshire's Community Safety Partnership is committed to achieving a downward shift in drug and alcohol use. Delivering high quality drug and alcohol services to support Wiltshire families and individuals who are affected by drugs and alcohol is important. A key priority is to ensure that everybody who needs it can identify, locate and access the most appropriate service for them, their clients or their families to address alcohol related harm. This directory provides professionals and the public with up to date details of the services available across the county. It is vital that in a large and primarily rural area people are aware of the services available. The directory is as comprehensive as possible at the time of publication.

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/directory-2012-drug-and-alcohol-services.pdf>

Further information on services available in Wiltshire providing help and advice regarding drugs and alcohol can be found on the Wiltshire Council website:

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/alcoholanddrugsadvice.htm

Government Drug Strategy 2010

The national strategy, "Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery: supporting people to live a drug-free life¹⁰", has two overarching aims:

- Reduce illicit and other harmful drug use
- Increase the numbers recovering from their dependence.

To achieve these aims the Government has set out three pillars of work within the strategy:

Reducing demand

- Creating an environment where the vast majority of people who have never taken drugs continue to resist any pressures to do so, and making it easier for those that do to stop. The commitment is to establish a whole-life approach to preventing and reducing the demand for drugs that will break inter-generational paths to dependency by supporting vulnerable families, provide good quality education and advice to young people, intervene early with young people and young adults, consistently enforce effective criminal sanctions to deter drug use, and support people to recover.

Restricting supply

- Through a co-ordinated response across Government and law enforcement to make the country a more challenging environment for organised crime. This includes law enforcement reforms, integrated local enforcement, reducing drug supply in prisons, tackling criminal business, addressing new psychoactive substances, cracking down on internet sales, seizing the assets of criminals, and strengthening international partnerships.

Building recovery in communities

- By offering a route out of dependence. The core principles to support recovery in communities are:
 - Person centred journey of recovery
 - Resources to deal with the social, physical, human and cultural needs of the individual (Recovery Capital)
 - Locally led system
 - Services are outcome focussed
 - Whole systems approach
 - Supported by recovery network
 - Keeping children safe and supporting families

A summary of the health harms of drugs¹¹

In 2011, the Department for health published a reference document summarising, for a non-medical audience, the latest scientific evidence about the health-related harms of emerging and established licit and illicit drugs commonly used in the UK.

Drug and alcohol treatment in Wiltshire and links to prevention¹²

This document provides more information about drug and alcohol treatment and its contribution to the prevention agenda. It briefly describes the commissioning

arrangements and accountabilities for adult, and children and young people's services. To see the briefing paper, please use this link:

<http://www.intelligenetwork.org.uk/EasysiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=53899&servicetype=Attachment>

Statistics on Drug Misuse: England, 2011¹³

This compendia report signposts to a range of published information on drug misuse among both adults and children which has been drawn together from a variety of sources. The report also presents some new information on hospital admissions related to drug misuse.

Indications of Public Health in the English Regions, 10: Drug Use¹⁴

This regional indications report contains 46 separate indicators of drug use relating to the individual, community and population, with various measures of the effects this has on health and wellbeing. In particular, the report focuses on the nine English regions, but, where possible, the situation in England has been put into a wider European context. Where datasets allow, the analysis is presented by the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (IMD, 2007) correlations at local authority level. Secondly, where small area data are available, analysis by a geo-demographic classification is included.

Medications in recovery: re-orientating drug dependence treatment

July 2012 saw the publication of a ground-breaking report by leading doctors and other experts in drug dependence setting out the best ways in which prescribing medication can help heroin addicts break the hold of their addiction and recover from dependence. The report is the product of a two-year inquiry by GPs, psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, service users, and providers from both the NHS and voluntary sectors. It was chaired by one of Britain's leading addiction specialists, Prof John Strang of the National Addiction Centre. To read or download this report, go to: <http://www.nta.nhs.uk/news-2012-rodtdfinal.aspx>

Challenges for consideration

The Wiltshire Needs Assessment for 2012/2013 identified particular priority areas of treatment delivery:

- Further improve throughput and successful completions
- Continuing the shift to a Recovery Model
- Further improve awareness of, and links to wraparound and aftercare Services
- More comprehensive aftercare services
- Further improve support for carers, families and significant others
- Stronger links with Children and Families Social Care, assertive outreach to parents, with a substance misuse problem and children at risk

- Improve uptake of BBV vaccinations and testing

Specific populations, with high risk profiles, for which more information is required:

- Black and Minority Ethnic groups
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
- People who have a disability
- People also have mental health problems, and so have dual needs
- Homeless people
- The unemployed
- Parents with children or young people living with them whose welfare may be deemed to be at risk of harm due to their parent's substance misuse.
- Migrant workers
- Injecting steroid users

Possible areas for future research include:

- the needs of the Gypsy, Traveller and Canal Dweller population of Wiltshire.
- the misuse of Over the Counter Medications.

Contact information

Document prepared by:

Tom Frost
Public Health Scientist
Wiltshire Public Health
Telephone: 01225 716791
Email: tom.frost@wiltshire.gov.uk

With input from:

Mary-Ann McKibben, Consultant in Public Health, Wiltshire Public Health
Eleanor Stirling, Joint Commissioning Manager for Substance Misuse,
Wiltshire Public Health

¹ Department of Health
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_132358

² Adult Partnership Quarterly Performance Report, 2011/12

³ Projecting Adult needs and Service Information System: <http://www.pansi.org.uk/>

Eight of the main drug types (cannabis, amphetamines, crack, cocaine, ecstasy, opiates, tranquillizers and volatile substances, such as glue).

⁴ Projecting Adult needs and Service Information System: <http://www.pansi.org.uk/>

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⁵ NDTMS, 2011

⁶ Estimates of the prevalence of opiate use and/or crack cocaine use (2006/07) South West Region. Home Office & The Centre for Drug Misuse Research, University of Glasgow

⁷ Lorna Gordon et al (2006) – 3. The economic and social costs of Class A drug use in England and Wales, 2003/04 (Measuring different aspects of problem drug use: methodological developments), Home Office Online Report 16/06

⁸ The story of drug treatment: effective treatment changing lives. National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse. London. December 2009. www.nta.nhs.uk/
http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/story_of_drug_treatment_december_2009.pdf

⁹ Wiltshire directory of drug and alcohol services, 10th Edition, Wiltshire Assembly: Community Safety Partnership March 2012.

¹⁰ Drug Strategy 2010, Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery :Supporting People to Live a Drug Free Life. HM Government. ISBN Number: 978-1-84987-388-8
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/alcohol-drugs/drugs/drug-strategy/drug-strategy-2010?view=Binary>

¹¹ A summary of the health harms of drugs, The Centre for Public Health, Faculty of Health & Applied Social Science, Liverpool John Moore's University, on behalf of the Department of Health and National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse. August 2011

¹² Drug and alcohol treatment in Wiltshire and links to prevention, Briefing paper for Wiltshire Council Leadership Team. Eleanor Stirling, Lauraine Jones, Lydia Thomas, Mary-Ann McKibben. 12th May 2010

¹³ Statistics on Drug Misuse: England, 2011. The NHS Information Centre, Lifestyles Statistics. 22 November 2011 Copyright © 2011.

¹⁴ Indications of Public Health in the English Regions, 10: Drug Use, North West Public Health Observatory, Centre for Public Health, Research Directorate & Faculty of Health & Applied Social Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University & Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO).
url: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=70746>