

DEVELOPING AN INTERVENTION TOOL KIT FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HARM FROM COCAINE

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Background:

Cocaine was implicated in more than a third of drug related deaths in Scotland in 2020 and both individuals and services are reporting increasing poly-drug use involving cocaine. In Glasgow in September 2021, 85 (37%) of all new referrals for drug treatment reported problematic cocaine use and a city-centre harm reduction intervention (HRI) audit demonstrated that the number of people injecting cocaine 173 (75%) has now overtaken those injecting heroin 149 (65%). Cocaine use is a risk factor for Hepatitis C transmission and has been identified as one of the drivers of the HIV outbreak in Glasgow.

An effective substitution treatment has not yet been identified and HRI and psycho-social interventions (PSI) remain the cornerstone of treatment. Staff engagement established a need to strengthen knowledge of cocaine related harms and develop a structure for intervention delivery however such a resource is not currently available in Scotland.

Description of model of care/intervention:

A small group of experts from a range of disciplines contributed sections of information to a draft toolkit document covering all aspects of cocaine treatment including street drug terms and costs, blood-borne virus (BBV) transmission risks, crisis interventions, HRI and PSI. People with lived and living experience contributed to draft development through facilitated group discussions. The final draft is being approved through local governance structures with implementation planned in April.

Effectiveness:

Once implemented, delivery of HRI and PSI will be audited. BBV testing will be measured and compared with rates prior to implementation. Data will be analysed and presented at the conference.

Conclusion and next steps:

The implementation experience will be described and the document will be available for conference attendees to use in their own practice.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

None