

WESSEX CLINICAL VANS

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Background:

In 2020, NHS England invited Hepatitis C (HCV) Operational Delivery Networks to bid for Clinical Van Funding. Inclusion Recovery Hampshire had a clinical van as part of the substance misuse contract, but did not have staff to fully utilise it. Thus, there were missed opportunities to address unmet needs, not only within substance misuse but also within HCV testing and linkage to care

Description of model of care/intervention:

In response to NHS England's invitation, Inclusion led a successful bid seeking funding for 2 fully-staffed vans to cover Hampshire and Dorset – now known as Wessex Clinical Vans (WCV). 24 stakeholders within community drug services developed and mapped out, across the vast geographical region, an HCV programme for the WCV, including high intensity test and treat (HITT) initiatives, pharmacy events, as well as routine testing and treatment clinics. Peers from The Hepatitis C Trust worked in partnership alongside the WCV to ensure that those identified with active HCV infection had access to ongoing support. Both WCV have use of Cepheid machines, increasing opportunities to test for HCV.

Effectiveness:

1699 contacts took place on WCV between April–December 2021, comprising of 1012 individuals. 110 HCV diagnoses were made (35 retreatments) and subsequently 104 patients have started HCV treatment. 147 sustained virological responses (SVR) have been recorded. 400+ litres of used needle waste has been collected and over 35 Naloxone kits dispensed. 20+ people identified as having active HCV infection by the WCV were not previously known to any services.

Conclusion and next steps:

Led by community drug services working in partnership with The Hepatitis C Trust, WCV has achieved phenomenal outcomes, such that SVRs are now being recorded for individuals who have been diagnosed and treated solely on the van. The programme of HCV events for WCV will continue in 2022.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

Nothing to disclose.