

Appendix 2 – KPIs for the Drug & Alcohol Service, 2020-21

3 weeks wait –

People who need drug and/or alcohol treatment need prompt help if they are to engage in treatment and recover from dependence. Keeping waiting time short plays a vital role in supporting recovery.

- 2% of alcohol users waited longer than 3 weeks for an intervention, compared with 2% in England.
- 1% of drug users waited longer than 3 weeks for an intervention, compared with 1% in England.

Treatment engagement –

When engaged in treatment, people use alcohol and illegal drugs less, commit less crime, improve their lives, and manage their health better which also benefits the community. Preventing unplanned drop out and keeping people in treatment long enough to benefit contributes towards these improved outcomes. As people progress through treatment, the benefits to them, their families, and their community start to accrue. The information below shows the proportion of people in Manchester who left treatment in an unplanned way before 12 weeks.

- 10% of opiate users left treatment in an unplanned way before 12 weeks, compared with 15% in England.
- 10% of non-opiate users left treatment in an unplanned way before 12 weeks, compared with 17% in England.
- 14% of alcohol users left treatment in an unplanned way before 12 weeks, compared with 13% in England.

Average time in treatment –

NICE Clinical Guideline CG115 recommends that mildly dependent and some higher risk drinkers receive a treatment intervention lasting 3 months, those with moderate and severe dependence should usually receive treatment for a minimum of 6 months while those with higher or complex needs may need longer in specialist treatment. The optimum time in treatment is agreed based on individual assessment of need. In Manchester, the typical length of time in treatment for alcohol users is 6 months though 8% of users were in treatment for longer than a year in 2020/21 (compared with 10% in England.)

Opiate users that have been in treatment for lengthy periods of time (6 years or over) usually find it harder to successfully complete treatment. Current data shows that opiate users who successfully complete within 2 years of first starting treatment have a higher likelihood of sustaining recovery.

- 49% of opiate users in treatment have been in treatment for 2 years or less, compared with 46% in England.
- 27% of opiate users in treatment have been in treatment for 6 years or more, compared with 27% in England.

Successful completions –

The PHE (Public Health England) alcohol evidence review indicates that treatment is effective and cost effective and is a necessary part of any overall approach to reduce alcohol related harm. Although there is no single measure of effective treatment for alcohol dependence, the following data gives an indication of how well the current system is working in treating those in structured treatment.

Likewise, helping people to overcome drug dependence is a core function of any drug treatment system. Many individuals require a number of separate treatment episodes spread over many years. As stated above, most individuals who successfully complete do so within 2 years of entry.

- 59% of alcohol users left treatment successfully, as a proportion of all exits. This compares with 62% in England.
- 4% of opiate users as a proportion of all in treatment completed their treatment free of dependence and did not represent within 6 months. This compares with 5% in England.
- 31% of non-opiate users as a proportion of all in treatment completed their treatment free of dependence and did not represent within 6 months. This compares with 33% in England.

Deaths in treatment –

In 2020/21, there was a 18% increase at a national level of the number of people who died while they were in treatment for drug misuse. It is likely that changes to drug treatment, reduced access to broader healthcare services, changes to lifestyle and social circumstances during lockdown, as well as Covid-19 itself will have contributed to this increase.

- 2.3% of the opiate treatment population (52 people) died while they were in treatment. This compares with 1.7% in England.
- 0.3% of the non-opiate treatment population (1 person) died while they were in treatment. This compares with 0.3% in England.
- 0.38% of the alcohol treatment population (3 people) died while they were in treatment. This compares with 1.54% in England.