

## OVERVIEW OF HSCB/PHA REGIONALLY COMMISSIONED / FUNDED ADDICTIONS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES (January 2019)

### 1. BACKGROUND

The Alcohol and Drugs Commissioning Framework was developed by PHA / HSCB in 2013 to inform future commissioning of PHA / HSCB services and to assist in the reform and modernisation of existing HSC Trust provision. The Framework was originally drafted in March 2013 and consulted on over April-May 2013. Fifty-two organisations responded to the consultation. Overall there was strong support for the range of priorities outlined in the Commissioning Framework and for the direction of travel. Commissioned and procured services in support of the framework commenced in 2015. PHA tendered services have been in place for an initial 3 year period and have now been extended for a further two years.

The PHA & HSCB plan to review the Alcohol and Drugs Commissioning Framework in 2019/20. This will include both public and stakeholder consultation with the overall aim of informing and shaping future commissioning and procurement.

### 2. HSC STATUTORY ADDICTIONS SERVICES

All five HSC Trusts directly provide generic and specialist treatment for addictions through HSCB commissioned secondary and tertiary services across Northern Ireland. The Mental Health Order (NI) 1986 Art 3(2) specifically excludes dependence on drugs or alcohol from the definition of “mental disorder” for the purpose of compulsory treatment, therefore treatment for addiction is exclusively on a voluntary basis.

- **24 Hours accommodation based treatment services**

There are three wards providing treatment for adults who require detoxification under 24 hr medical supervision based at Downshire Hospital; Holywell Hospital and Omagh Hospital. These operate as a regional network.

There are two HSC funded facilities with contracts to provide adult residential rehabilitation services; Northlands in Derry/Londonderry and Carlisle House in Belfast. Work is ongoing to develop these as a regional network. Currently admission can be facilitated from anywhere in NI with the agreement of the HSC Trusts who contract with these services.

Cuan Mhuire in Newry provides housing based support for people with substance misuse problems. The service is jointly funded by NIHE and HSCB, and accessible through self-referral.

The regional inpatient at Beechcroft is a general CAMHS inpatient unit that admits anyone with acute mental ill health; if a young person is also using alcohol and/or drugs this does not exclude them from admission, but abuse of alcohol and drugs would not be on its own a reason for an inpatient admission. There are a total of 33 beds available in Beechcroft configured as assessment and treatment. Admission is for 12-18 years and younger children are more usually treated in the community although if appropriate they can be admitted to Beechcroft.

- **Community Based Addictions Treatment service**

The majority of treatment for addictions is carried out in a community setting, including dual diagnosis specialists for people with a serious mental illness and an addiction or substance misuse problem. All five HSC Trusts provide Community Addictions Teams including specialist substitute prescribing services.

### **3. PHA REGIONALLY COMMISSIONED / FUNDED SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES**

In addition, the Public Health Agency (PHA) currently commission / fund a wide range of drug and alcohol services focused on meeting the drug and alcohol needs of children, young people, adults and families / carers which are available in each HSC Trust area across Northern Ireland. These include Tier / Step 1, 2 & 3 services across the voluntary, community and statutory sectors (in support of Alcohol and Drugs Commissioning Framework, Making Life Better and NSD for Alcohol & Drugs – phase 2) as follows:

- **Community Based Services for Young People who are identified as having Substance Misuse difficulties**

This service provides Step 2 treatment services including psychotherapeutic interventions (structured talking therapies e.g. cognitive behavioural therapy, motivational interventions, structured counselling) for children and young people, aged 11-25 years including structured family support. The criteria for accessing this service for service users aged 21 to 25 years are that the service user has been identified as vulnerable or has had difficulty integrating into the adult treatment system, for example, a history of disengagement and vulnerability.

**N.B:** Brief advice and structured support is also provided / available to family members / carers irrespective of whether or not a family relative is accessing treatment for their substance misuse as part of this Step 2 service.

- **Drug and Alcohol Mental Health Service (DAMHS)**

This service provides step 3 treatment services for children and young people with drug and /or alcohol issues which are beyond the scope of community based services as a result of complex co-morbid mental health issues. This includes the delivery of formal psychological therapies (motivational enhancement therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy, relapse management therapy, family therapy) and drug therapies where appropriate. The service is based / integrated within each of the HSCT Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

- **Adult Step 2 services**

These services provide Step 2 treatment services including extended brief interventions and psychotherapeutic interventions (structured talking therapies e.g. cognitive behavioural therapy, motivational interventions, structured counselling).

**N.B:** Brief advice and structured support is also provided / available to family members / carers, irrespective of whether or not a family relative is accessing treatment for their substance misuse as part of this Step 2 service.

- **Low threshold services**

These are accessible services with minimum criteria for access that adopt a harm reduction approach. The services work to reduce drug and alcohol related harm amongst those with significant substance misuse problems, many of whom have complex needs. The service particularly targets people who are currently not engaged with a treatment / support service and/or have a history of disengagement and vulnerability.

- **Therapeutic Services for Children, Young People and Families Affected by Parental Substance Misuse**

This service provides therapeutic interventions and support to children affected by parental substance misuse as part of a multi-agency care plan through working directly with the young people and indirectly with non-substance misusing parents/carers. The service also provides support for families, engages with other services who work with these children and families and provides specialist advice and support to front line workers working with families affected by Hidden Harm.

- **Targeted Prevention services for Young People**

This service develops and delivers age appropriate drug & alcohol life skills/harm reduction programmes for young people in the age ranges of 11-13 years, 14-15 years and 16+ years across Northern Ireland. These programmes are delivered to young people identified as being at risk of substance misuse and are not delivered to the universal population of young people (universal substance misuse education is delivered via schools).

- **Youth Engagement Services (formerly known as One Stop Shop services)**

Eight Youth Engagement services for young people aged 11 – 25 years are available across Northern Ireland. The service provides up to date objective information about personal health and wellbeing issues (including drugs and alcohol), choices, where to find help / advice and support to access services when they are needed. Locations include Carrickfergus, Belfast, Bangor, Banbridge, Newry, Enniskillen, Derry/Londonderry and Ballymena.

- **Substance Misuse Liaison Services**

Commissioned by both the PHA and HSCB this service is in place within acute hospitals in-patient settings (in particular, admission wards and Emergency Departments) across the 5 HSC Trusts. The service focuses on harmful/hazardous substance misuse among acute hospital admissions (non-dependent) and not requiring access to specialist addiction-specific interventions. The service provides screening of patients to identify harmful/hazardous substance misuse, structured brief advice and structured interventions to those 'screening positive', direct care of more complex patients: advising on care/management, for example, medical detoxification of in-patient and aftercare/follow-up with referral to other services as required.

- **Workforce Development Services**

This regional service develops and delivers a range of training courses to support the implementation of the PHA/HSCB Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Framework, ensuring there is a pathway for alcohol and drug workers from all sectors to achieve a recognised qualification in substance misuse. It provides mentoring and support to those staff that require additional support to undertake specific tasks following training. A significant number of the training programmes are aimed at practitioners who work / care for children, young people and adults.

- **Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination Team's Connection Services**

This Northern Ireland wide service seeks to build capacity for those working and volunteering in communities including provision of information, resources and signposting. The service also utilises local media in support of regional public information campaigns. The service also assists the Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination Teams (DACTs) in each HSCT area to develop local action plans and support implementation of the Community Incident Protocol when required. The service also supports and develops local information initiatives in partnership with key agencies, promotes the Drug and Alcohol Monitoring and Information System (DAMIS) and advocates and promotes for legislation on addressing drug and alcohol issues.

- **Needle & Syringe Exchange Schemes (NSESs)**

This service, commissioned by HSCB in partnership with the Public Health Agency, provides sterile injecting equipment, and safe disposal of used equipment, to people who inject drugs, including heroin. The service is currently primarily provided by 22 Community Pharmacy NSESs across Northern Ireland – our current aim is to establish a possible further two to three community pharmacy needle exchanges in the Belfast area and two to three outside Belfast.

- **Take Home Naloxone programme**

The programme is coordinated by the Public Health Agency, with support from the Health and Social Care Board. The programme provides life-saving medicine (naloxone) to people at risk of opioid overdose. This medicine is available to anyone

who uses opioids, through their local Trust Addiction Services, Prison Service and Low Threshold Services. Take Home Naloxone is a Prenoxad Injection (naloxone hydrochloride 1mg/1ml solution for injection) which is licensed for emergency use in the home or other non-medical setting by appropriate individuals for the reversal of respiratory depression induced by opioids. It is injected intramuscularly and can be administered by anyone in an emergency overdose situation.

**For further information on the above services and supporting resources (including details of the local service provider in each HSC Trust area) please visit / go to: <http://www.drugsandalcoholni.info>**

- **Drug and Alcohol Monitoring and Information System (DAMIS)**

DAMIS (facilitated and co-ordinated by the PHA) is an “early warning system” designed to find out about emerging trends in drug and alcohol misuse, so that the PHA and partners can act quickly in providing relevant information or advice to those who misuse drugs or alcohol. Much of the information sent out through DAMIS is practical advice aimed at reducing the harms to people from their drug and alcohol use. The kind of information that DAMIS collects includes:

- A sudden increase in a particular drug being misused
- Drugs being misused in new ways
- New drugs becoming available
- Emergence of substances with unexpected, unpleasant or dangerous effects

The Department of Health oversees DAMIS with support from lead partners: the Public Health Agency, the Department of Justice, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Forensic Service Northern Ireland. Representatives of these agencies form the DAMIS Steering Group. DAMIS is essentially an e-mail network of individuals who work for specialist drug and alcohol services, or for services that work with or treat people who misuse drugs or alcohol (for example homeless services, or Emergency Departments).