



Chief Executive  
**John Metcalfe**

To  
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From  
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Our Ref: iw20/11/1003

25 November 2020

Dear Matt

Thank you for your information request dated 02/11/20. Please find in the email attached, information you have requested.

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Please contact me again if you require any further assistance on this matter and I will do my best to provide relevant help and advice.

If you have any complaints in respect of your information request, please write to the Corporate Information Unit, County Hall, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1UD or complete the online appeals form that can be found at [www.iwight.com/information](http://www.iwight.com/information). If your complaint is not resolved to your complete satisfaction, you have the ultimate right, once you have exhausted the internal appeals process, to appeal to the Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jessie Darroll".

Jessie Darroll  
Department Information Guardian  
Response

Cont ...

Please advise your strategy and actions to reduce the high number of drug misuse related deaths on the IOW.

The mortality rate for 2017-19 shows a rate twice the England average while the number of deaths have increased substantially in the last 3 years.

### **Response**

*The IOW Public Health team commission substance misuse services through Inclusion (part of the Midlands NHS Trust), to work with people of all ages to tackle their drug use. This includes providing medical and behavioural support for people to sustain changes and reductions in their drug use and providing the facilities for safe use of drugs and detoxification. We work closely with providers to make sure that services are flexible to the needs of the population, and that people can access support from across the Island. We also work closely with local partners in the Police, Probation and across health and social care to ensure a coordinated response to drug misuse and that people can access support for their wider needs.*

*We are committed to preventing any drug related deaths through working closely with Inclusion and a range of partners across the Island. This work includes:*

- Regular review of the causes and lessons that can be learnt from drug-related deaths. A proactive approach is taken, feeding this back into services to make sure that actions are taken to intervene early and prevent deaths where possible.*
- Provision of naloxone at key sites and naloxone training for service users, their family/friends and professionals across the Isle of Wight*
- Improving the accessibility of support, including the creation of a robust and growing volunteer and peer support network.*
- Targeted outreach: During Covid-19 the service has worked hard to outreach to those who were not engaging and now have a mobile provision which is showing encouraging success.*

*Inclusion also work closely with several partner agencies, including the Isle of Wight Mental health community and acute services to provide more cohesive support to people with high risk and complex needs. The Isle of Wight Council has recently recruited an officer to work with homeless people and Inclusion to provide comprehensive support for this cohort.*

*These actions are part of a continued effort to improve drug and alcohol services on the Island, ensuring that people can access appropriate, coordinated support to sustain reductions in drug use.*