Drugs - reducing harm and promoting recovery

Why is this issue important for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly?

Whole community
There are an estimated 2,382 problematic opioid and/or crack users (OCUs) in Cornwall. There are an estimated 2,382 people in Cornwall who use drugs, including 8.8% (1 in 11) used illicit drugs = 24,700 people in Cornwall.

Costs
- Estimated cost of crime per opiate/crack user not in treatment: £26k
- Potential annual cost to local society: £106m

Personal costs
- 16 drug-related deaths annually
- Deaths among heroin users are 10 times the death rate in the general population
- 29% Hidden harms to children and families
- Parent drug use is a risk factor in 29% of all children’s serious care reviews

Inequalities
- 14% - Over 6,700 people with a mental health condition in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are estimated to also have drug dependency

Of drug treatment service users...
- 70% are on benefits
- 30% have a housing problem

Women make up 27% of adults in treatment and are more likely to be carers of children often experiencing poor mental health, domestic violence and abuse that may impact upon their recovery

Evidence
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly have an annual Drug Needs Assessment to inform the Drug treatment Strategy and Commissioning priorities

NICE guidance provides evidence on effective drug interventions

Rehab case study
Before I came to Bosence Farm my life was upside down and any skills I had with regards to living had turned in on me and my fellow man. The drugs had taken over my life and my addiction was making all of the choices just so I could get more what I needed (drugs) to live, so I would not have to look at myself or my past. I hated who I was, what I had become. I could not see a way out. I spent some time at the Farm looking at how my addiction had manifested and how it was affecting me. With the help of staff and my peers I was able to learn how to let go of old useless behaviours and put into practice new positive attitudes. I learned to ask for help and was given hope and encouragement when all I felt was despair. The Farm showed me that the good person I was still in there. I learned to look after myself and treat myself with respect; to treat others with respect and to take responsibility for my recovery; to face my fears and take my life back. During my time at Bosence I not only had time to look at my life and where it was going but to turn it all around. I had the time to build up a support network to continue to help me after leaving Bosence.

What is being done locally to address this issue?

What are the local outcomes?
Proportion in effective treatment
- Cornwall
- National

Specialist treatment
1,139 opiate users and 543 non-opiate users engaged in specialist treatment in 2014/15

Young people
96 young people required specialist drug and alcohol treatment

Services were developed for those experiencing problems related to new psychoactive substances and prescription-only medication

Primary care
70% of drug treatment can be delivered by GPs, with 22 practices providing specialist drug treatment in the community

Families
Families can access help together, especially where more than one member requires assistance

Drug prevention can help young people get into education, employment and training

Local advice and support
Services are free and confidential
Anyone in Cornwall/Isles of Scilly concerned about their own use (or someone else’s) can contact Addaction Cornwall for advice or support: 0330 2000 325

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Why invest?
Every £1 spent on drug treatment saves £2.50 in costs to society in Cornwall

Prevention of drug-related crime and increase in health and wellbeing in Cornwall: estimated £6m saved annually