

CURRENT LOCAL RESPONSES TO DRUG AND ALCOHOL RELATED HARM

The following section outlines the services, interventions, schemes, and initiatives that are currently in existence in Worcestershire to address drug and alcohol related issues:

Services for drug users:

Turning Point:

Turning Point is a countywide service that provides needle exchange support, a drop-in service, advice and information, harm reduction guidance (i.e. safer injecting, overdose awareness, hep B & C advice), structured counselling, support for families and carers, support for children of substance misusing parents and aftercare & relapse prevention work.

Community Drug Teams provided by Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership Trust:

These teams are also countywide and provide primarily prescribing based treatment through specialised or primary care (family doctor) services. They will also provide the route into other specialised services such as mental health services, detoxification in a hospital setting and residential rehabilitation. Additionally, they will provide key working, vaccinations against Blood Borne viruses, counselling interventions and community-based detoxification to clients.

Shared Care services provided by General Practitioners (family doctors) and Pharmacists:

Once a drug-using client is stable on a prescription they may be transferred to their own family doctor for continued medication. A team of Shared Care liaison workers supports the family doctor. As part of the process for stabilising an individual on drug misuse substitute medication they will be required to consume this medication under the supervision of a Pharmacist. This ensures that their medication is taken regularly, in accordance with the prescription and is not 'diverted onto the streets'.

Drug Interventions Programme provided by Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust, with secondments from the National Probation Service (West Mercia):

The programme aims to get drug-misusing offenders out of crime and into treatment. It ensures that individuals who are in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) (arrested, in court, released from prison, sentenced to a community order) can access treatment at any and all parts of their process through the CJS. The aim of the service is to ensure that their care is co-ordinated and treatment provided at all points and that individuals remain in contact with treatment services. DIP is also responsible for managing the care of offenders who are released from custodial sentences, complete community sentences and/or leave treatment.

Rapid Access Methadone Programme:

RAMP stands for Rapid Access Methadone Programme and it is a partnership between the Community Drug Teams and Turning Point. The scheme is designed to target the most vulnerable substance misusers (particularly those who are homeless) and enable them to get faster access to a methadone prescription.

Service users access RAMP through the “drop-in” at Worcester Druglink, the doctor who goes into St Paul’s Hostel, the Turning Point worker at St.Paul’s or Maggs day centre.

Social Reintegration Scheme provided by Turning Point:

This is a team that supports drug misusers who are receiving, or have completed treatment back into employment, education or training as well as addressing other support needs such as housing. From October 2009 they will be offering placements at care farms, give users the opportunity to learn new skills and work as a team, and has been proven to help many people in their recovery.

Experience 24 provided by Turning Point:

This is a 12-week programme where clients attend for 2 days a week (a total of 24 days) to take part in a variety of different sessions focussing on harm reduction, self-esteem building, relationship building etc.

Experience 250

This is a modular day programme which runs Monday to Friday, and participants (service users) can opt for as little as half a day a week, or up to 5 full days. There are 3 main types of training/activities:

- Life Skills
- Personal Development
- Employability (including interview skills and CV writing)

There is a minibus, and participants are picked up from central points. The main base for Experience 24/250 is Bromsgrove, but people come from anywhere in the county. There are links with colleges for numeracy and literacy training etc. The Social Reintegration team assess service users to see whether they meet the eligibility criteria for the scheme. Experience 250 will become City & Guilds accredited soon.

Residential Rehabilitation provided by a range of establishments outside of Worcestershire:

These services provide therapeutic programmes to assist people in addressing some of the reasons why they may misuse drugs and/or alcohol and tools to develop and maintain drug/alcohol free lifestyles. Programmes are usually 12 weeks long.

Inpatient Drug and Alcohol Detoxification:

In-patient detoxification programmes are where an individual is medically supervised whilst they withdraw from taking drugs or alcohol. In-patient drug (and alcohol) misuse treatment services are located in hospital general psychiatric units and in general hospitals (general medical beds).

Worcestershire has a contract in place with an inpatient detox provider Warwick called Woodleigh Beeches.

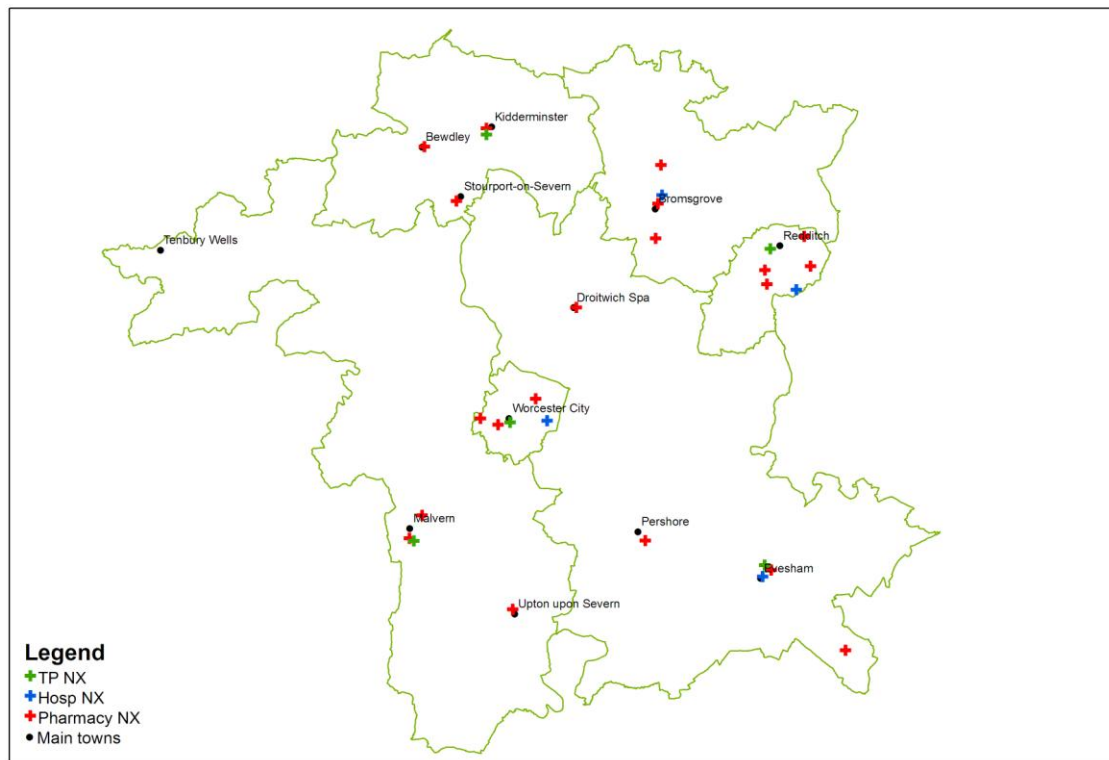
Hepatitis B & C service provided by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS

Trust:

This service treats people who have been infected with Hepatitis C, which is a blood borne virus. They also vaccinate against Hepatitis B. Two part-time nurses run Community Vaccination Clinics in the various treatment locations across the county.

Needle Exchange Schemes provided by Turning Point:

There are 31 needle exchanges in Worcestershire - 21 pharmacy based exchanges, 5 at hospitals and 5 are based within drug services. The locations of the needle exchanges are detailed below:



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Location of Needle Exchange Services

Worcestershire Substance Misuse Housing Related Support service provided by Stonham Housing:

This service aims to support drug-using clients to access or maintain their accommodation, which may be provided by a Local Authority, Residential Social Landlord or a private tenancy. In April 2008, there were 245 hours per week of housing related support available for substance misusers.

Rent Deposit Scheme provided by Worcester Housing, Benefits and Advice Centre:

The RDS is a countywide scheme that provides a holistic and long-term approach for substance misusers across Worcestershire who need support and assistance in finding a suitable tenancy. Rent deposits are provided to landlords in both private housing sector and Registered Social Landlords to house clients that are actively engaged with drug and alcohol agencies. Referrals to the scheme come from drug agencies only.

St Pauls, Bromyard Road:

Bromyard Road is a substance free environment that aims to provide housing for people who have experienced difficulties with substances, and who are homeless or in inappropriate or insecure accommodation.

The project aims to resettle all clients in suitable independent accommodation.

Alcohol Services

Community Alcohol Team jointly provided by Worcestershire Community Alcohol Team and Worcestershire Mental Health NHS Partnership Trust:

This service provides advice and information, Brief Interventions, counselling, support for professionals and parents/carers, work with offenders as well as community based detoxification and access to residential rehabilitation. Services are provided from bases in Worcester City, Kidderminster, Redditch and Bromsgrove.

Worcestershire Alcohol Criminal Justice Interventions Team (ACJIT) provided by Worcestershire Community Alcohol Team:

The basic concept of an ACJIT is that individuals who are committing alcohol related crime could be referred to Worcestershire Community Alcohol Team for Brief Interventions or structured counselling at ANY point of the Criminal Justice System. This includes:

- Those subject to Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) or Conditional Caution for offences where alcohol is assessed to be a significant factor. Consideration will be given to introducing referrals via Community Resolution.
- Those who have been charged with an offence whose offending is alcohol related.
- Those subject to community sentences and where addressing alcohol misuse is identified as a key component to successfully completing that sentence, and reducing the risk of subsequent re-offending.
- Those released from prison where successful resettlement will be enhanced by alcohol interventions aimed at reducing alcohol misuse.

This countywide multi-agency scheme is funded by Police, Probation Service and Safer Communities Board and is monitored by Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team.

Alcohol Liaison Nurse provided by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust:

This post is based in the Worcestershire Royal Hospital but primarily works in Accident and Emergency and the Medical Assessment Unit. The Alcohol Liaison Nurse provides screening, assessment and brief interventions to patients presenting with alcohol related conditions. The ALN will also refer patients with more severe alcohol issues on to specialist community alcohol services.

A key part of this role is to train other medical staff in other departments how to screen and identify patients presenting with alcohol issues.

Brief Interventions Project:

This service provides training to front line staff (Tier One) that may come into contact with clients who are misusing alcohol. The purpose of the training programme is to increase the competence and confidence of professionals in delivering 'Brief Interventions' to their client group.

Young Person Specific Drug and Alcohol Services

SPACE:

Services for young people are collectively known as **SPACE** (Substance Prevention Acceptance Confidentiality Education) and are delivered through a multi-agency team (which includes Primary Care Trust, Youth Offending Service and Turning Point) with a dedicated free-phone number. The services delivered through SPACE include: advice and information, harm reduction guidance, substitute prescribing, complimentary therapies and targeted education for vulnerable young people, professionals, parents and carers.

Inside Out provided by Turning Point:

Inside Out is a service, which provides support for young people up to 19 years of age affected by someone else's drug or alcohol use. There is a free helpline and a 1:1 support service available.

Support for services working with young people are also provided by the following:

- Teacher Advisor within the Healthy Schools team at Worcestershire County Council;
- Targeted Youth Support Worker with Integrated Youth Support Services with a specific focus on substance misuse. Education and information is provided for young people and youth workers as well as other professionals working with vulnerable young people and parents/carers.

Other Services

Pressure Point provided by Turning Point:

This is a freephone confidential helpline open in the evenings and weekends and staffed by volunteers. Advice and information is provided to callers as well as referrals to the Family Support Co-ordinator and other adult/young people's services.

Family Support provided by Turning Point:

This service provides 1:1 support to parents and carers as well as recruitment, co-ordination and training of Pressure Point helpline volunteers.

Additionally there are independent voluntary Parent (Carer) support groups operating in parts of the county. These are:

- Parents and Partners Against Drugs (Worcester)
- Families Unite (Redditch & Bromsgrove)

MerciaNet South Training:

This service delivers high quality substance misuse training to statutory and voluntary workers across Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

SURGE:

SURGE stands for Service Users' Rights Group Enterprise and is a group of current and ex-drug users who work to improve information resources and increase awareness for drug users, help current users to address their problems and access treatment services, assess local services and suggest ways in which they may be improved and, most importantly, represent the views of current and ex-drugs users in Worcestershire. SURGE also runs Overdose Awareness, Harm Reduction and Hepatitis C workshops for drug and alcohol users.

Community Based Solutions

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Tasking:

CDRP Joint Tasking is a multi-agency forum composed of operational officers from the following agencies:

- District/Borough Council
- West Mercia Constabulary
- Worcestershire County Council
- Primary Care Trust
- Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team
- West Mercia Probation Service
- Hereford and Worcestershire Fire & Rescue Service

Other organisations are invited to attend where relevant.

There are 4 different Tasking Groups operating at district level.

The role of Tasking is to anticipate, mitigate and solve community safety problems through a practical, coordinated, multi-agency approach

Tasking aims to explore and form an analysis of problems through:

- Specific research;
- Partner intelligence;
- Community intelligence.

Tasking encourages partners to use the following tools to address community safety problems:

- Building working practices between partners that focus on dealing with problems outside of mainstream service delivery;
- Examining and modifying existing operations and practices with a view to making them more effective;
- Re-prioritising or re-distributing resources to address problems.

Tasking acts practically by:

- Allocating partner agencies with specific, time bound and resourced actions;
- Evaluating the performance of partner agencies in completing these actions;
- Evaluating the community safety results for the local community;
- Communicating the work of the CDRP and community safety results to the local community.

Prolific and Priority Offender Scheme:

Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPOs) are persistent offenders who pose the greatest threat to the safety and confidence of their communities. Many of them frequently have drug problems and commit crime to support their drug habit. It is estimated that out of a million active offenders, 100,000 offenders have three or more convictions and are responsible for half of all crime. Within this 100,000 (10%) a further 5,000 (0.5%) are super prolific.

The Prolific and Priority Offenders scheme was introduced to tackle these prolific offenders who are committing the most crime and causing the most harm within our local communities.

Responsibility is placed on CDRPs to work in partnership with other statutory agencies including the Police, the Probation Trust, Youth Offending Teams and the Prison Service to introduce a local PPO scheme in every CDRP area.

There are three strands to the Tackling Prolific Offenders Framework:

- **Prevent and Deter** – to stop young offenders escalating into prolific offenders and to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in criminality in the first place.
- **Catch and Convict** - approach with all partners focusing on the same key groups of offenders who are causing the most crime.
- **Rehabilitate and Resettle** - to provide prolific offenders coming to the end of their sentence with a choice: 'Reform or face a very swift return to the courts'.