

LINK in Action: Alcohol Services



December 2010

This briefing brings you up to date on progress with the LINK's investigation into alcohol services. Our report of September 2010 made a number of recommendations to improve services, based on feedback from people who had used services and groups which support people with alcohol problems. This is a summary of how local services have responded to our report.

Our report...

We made recommendations for:

- More support and advice to help people in preparation for treatment.
- More local detox beds in the Hull area on a dedicated unit.
- Development of a single point of access for alcohol services to improve co-ordination.
- More ongoing support and aftercare following treatment.
- Improved referral to alcohol services following hospital treatment.



The Response...

Support and Advice

Investment in community services has increased in recent years, with support available through a range of routes. Clients are supported through their preparation for inpatient treatment by specialist case management. Improved access to some preparatory steps, such as direct commissioning blood results, would speed up the process and services are actively working on this.

Detox Beds

The need for an increase in inpatient facilities is recognised to cope with increased

demand. Services are working to make more inpatient beds available in the Hull area, and news on this will be available in 2011. A dedicated unit would be desirable but resources would have to be found for this.

Service Co-ordination

Services also told us they want to provide flexibility to refer people into the best treatment option for them, so don't favour a single point of access. A new forum for alcohol services will improve service co-ordination.

Support and Aftercare

A new day programme and aftercare service for clients and their families has recently started work. New NICE guidelines due in 2011 will outline a recommended approach, and local services will then examine what services are not currently available.



Hospital Services

Services recognised the need to improve pathways from hospital into alcohol services. Funding has been identified to address this, and two new specialist alcohol nurses are to be recruited.

Hull LINK will monitor progress on our recommendations and will keep members informed of developments.

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