

Dyfed- Powys Drug Intervention Programme

Newsletter 5 - June 2007



Welcome to the June edition of Dyfed Powys Newsletter. The purpose of this Newsletter is to keep you up to date with what has been happening within the Dyfed Powys DIP region.

Dyfed-Powys Drug Intervention Programme is an organisation based in the counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys providing advice and support to drug misusers, their families and friends.

Arrest Referral News- Ceredigion

The DIP Team in Ceredigion have had some notable successes in the last year. Here is one example:

"A young male client new to the area was seen by the Ceredigion DIP Arrest Referral Worker in custody in May 2006. This person was of no fixed abode (roofless) and whose drinking was out of control. He stayed in the night shelter or slept rough, dependant on drink and availability of places in the shelter."

"This man was hospitalised following severe beating whilst under the influence of drink and drugs."

"On release from hospital he engaged with 1:1 counselling and then participated in a Drugs & Alcohol Awareness Programme before transferring to the Treatment Programme."

"Working through his anger, chaotic behaviour, and underlying issues it became

impossible for the client to hide his drugs issues. He became honest about his using and its impact upon his life."

"He continued engaging with DIP and the Treatment Programme which he completed successfully."

"He went on to a weekly Aftercare Programme."

"During this time he was receiving ongoing support from the Support Worker with a range of issues including benefits, housing, volunteering, and diversionary activity. In conjunction with the Ceredigion Care Society, the client has been helped to find his own rented flat in the private sector with a bond guarantee provided."

"The client has remained abstinent for over 9 months and has been offered a place in full time further education in September 2007."

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Arrest Referral News- Powys

The DIP Team in Powys have had a busy year. Here is an example of one of their success stories (the name has been changed).

" "Andy" is a 43 year old man, who is a single parent with six children, four of whom live with him. The mother of his older five children died six years ago and the mother of his youngest (aged 3) has mental health problems and is in and out of residential care. Both she and his most recent partner were violent towards him and he came to Powys to the male refuge in the north of the county. He was at rock bottom, feeling that he had lost everything, and decided to make some money to support his family by dealing ecstasy. He was caught, tested positive for cocaine on arrest and referred to the DIP."

"The refuge evicted him for the drugs charge and he was given emergency temporary accommodation in the middle of the county."

"His arrest proved to be a real wake-up call and he engaged well with the DIP, cutting both his cannabis and alcohol use, and beginning to sort his life out. He tested negative for all class A and B drugs. He was supported in accessing bereavement counselling for himself and his children, day care for his youngest son and was about to start a computer course when he was offered permanent housing back up in the north of the county, and moved."

"It was at this point that his court case was due to be heard. Despite having multi agency back up accommodation for his children,

he was warned he should be given a custodial sentence (thought to be 4 years). However because he was doing so well the judge deferred the sentence for five months, saying if he continued to make progress he would consider a suspended sentence."

"Andy continued to be drug and trouble free, found a new partner with whom he is extremely happy, his children blossomed in their new environment and he has just been given a 13 week sentence suspended for 18 months, plus 80 hours unpaid work, which he is rattling through. He has been discharged from the DIP - and from PDAC - although he has said he will continue to come in and let us know how they are all doing."

Targets

During the months of January through to June 2007 the Dyfed Powys Drug Interventions Programme succeeded in meeting its monthly Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets, as set by the Home Office. Dyfed Powys DIP has 3 KPIs:

- to assess 60% of those with whom we are making contact. We achieved between 70 and 100% in this category.

- of those assessed as needing further intervention, take 85% onto the caseload. We are achieved between 95 and 100% in this category.

- and finally of those taken onto the caseload, have 95% engage in further treatment. We consistently achieve 100% in this category.

Well done to all staff! Thank you for your hard work, and keep it up!

IT Press Release

On 4th June Dyfed-Powys DIP went 'live' on a new electronic case management system. The system is called Palbase and is provided by a software company based in Brighton called Paloma. Over the preceding few weeks all staff have been getting training on the system. The system was commissioned to be rolled out across the whole of Wales with 'go live' dates in April and May for Gwent and South Wales DIP areas.

Of course with any new IT system, it is bringing a lot of change to working practices. Most importantly DIP practitioners and Arrest Referral staff are using the system to record DIR information and case/contact notes, track clients, generate letters and much more. This is making it much easier to monitor caseloads, track clients, review service capacity and improve access to information. But it is expected that adapting to this major change will take a little time so all staff will receive plenty of support for using and adjusting to the Palbase system.

There is still a huge amount of work to do in developing best practice use of the system and resolving any issues that arise. In Dyfed Powys we are also currently arranging Palbase user groups. These will be used as a forum for users to raise key issues, concerns, identify new features, involvement on new projects and share best practice with other areas. Each region of Wales will have a Palbase user group and these will be essential in driving forward the use and future development of the system.



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