

Dyfed- Powys Drug Intervention Programme

Newsletter 4 - March 2007

**TACKLING
DRUGS
CHANGING
LIVES**

Welcome to the March 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- Pembrokeshire

The DIP Team in Pembrokeshire, led by Simon Watts, have had some notable successes in the last year of the DIP running in the county. Here is one such example, (though the name has been changed)

"Michael" was recently arrested in Pembrokeshire for anti-social behaviour and possession of Class A drugs. Following his arrest, on a weekend, he was engaged by DIP team staff at his court appearance the following Tuesday. The appropriate intervention by DIP was discussed in court, and thus taken into account by the Magistrates.

In the 3-4 months Michael has worked with DIP, he has engaged extremely well with the Drug Worker and Wraparound Support Worker. Many vital aspects of his life are improving, to an extent where he now feels ready to resume contact with his children."

"These include:

1. Referral into TRAC/Employment & Training, resulting in successful full-time employment.
2. Successfully housed in appropriate accommodation, where his children can stay.
3. Referral to local prescribing service for clinical intervention/prescribing.
4. Liaison with Social services/family workers to help achieve realistic child access.
5. Significant improvement in Michael's general outlook on life - facilitated by regular sessions with DIP staff, using Motivational Interviewing & Solution Focused based approaches.

The importance of intervening with Michael at the arrest/court stage cannot be over-emphasised. The reduction in offending and improvements in Michael's life combine to provide a very positive outcome measure for DIP."



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru

Arrest Referral News- Carmarthenshire

The DIP Team in Carmarthenshire, led by Lisa Kieh, have also been busy in the last year. Here is an example of one of their success stories (the name has been changed.)

"Peter" was referred to the Carmarthenshire DIP Arrest Referral Programme following an arrest for theft. He had had several episodes of involvement with the criminal justice system, all in connection with his heroin and drug use. He had had a lengthy drug free period whilst in prison and wanted to return to this again. He was not in touch with his family and his friends were other drug users in the area. He was not working and daily life revolved around getting the money to buy his heroin, usually £50-60/day.

Through the DIP Arrest Referral Scheme he has met with a Drug Worker to look at gradually reducing his drug use and be referred to the substitute prescribing service which manages methadone prescriptions. He has also met with the DIP's Support Worker in order to start sorting out debt issues and get back into re-training. Potentially Peter may be able to enter the Probation service's Drug Rehabilitation Requirement (DRR) programme as a community sentence and DIP has made a referral. In the meantime he is reducing his drug use in stages leading to a corresponding reduction in his related criminal behaviour."

Office Moves

Carmarthenshire DIP Team have moved from From their temporary offices in St. Davids Park, Carmarthen to their new offices in Llynhendy, Llanelli. The new contact details are provided at the end of this newsletter.

The DIP Central Office have moved offices also. However they have not moved as far, indeed Just across the building to a different suite of offices still within St. Davids Park, Carmarthen. Contact details remain the same.

Conditional Cautioning Scheme

The Conditional Cautioning Scheme was launched in the Dyfed Powys region on Monday 18th December 2006.

Provisions within the Criminal Justice Act 2003 enable the Police to give adult offenders a Conditional Caution as an alternative to a charge. A Conditional Caution requires the offender to carry out actions that either address their offending behaviour and/or make reparation to the victim or the community.

The Drug Interventions Programme offers a 3 session programme, for those deemed appropriate under the Conditional Cautioning Scheme, covering subjects such as drug awareness, harm minimisation and intervention options.

Dyfed-Powys DIP has received and successfully completed the Conditional Cautioning Programme with a number of people already.

Targets

During the months of October, November and December 2006 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.

The Lord Woolf Seminar

The Lord Woolf seminar took place on Wednesday 8th November 2006 at the Halliwell Centre, Trinity College, Carmarthen.

The seminar was sponsored by the Butler Trust and provided an opportunity to share good practice in relation to the Drug Rehabilitation Requirement. Practitioners and service users spoke about their experience of providing and receiving the service and it was evident that being sentenced to a requirement that provided a route into drug treatment had had a significant impact on the lives of individuals and enabled them to develop as individuals, parents and community members.

Marilyn Mason, a Pembrokeshire Magistrate, talked about an individual she had sentenced and seen at review hearings and the impact the order had had on him. Glyn Davies spoke about the User Consultation work he had undertaken and of the importance of the relationship between service users, probation staff and treatment workers and of the balance between individual work and activity provision.

Many providers brought stands and information and we are grateful to all those who participated and attended the seminar.



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