

# HEP C U Later

August 2022

## Quarterly Newsletter

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Please let us know your thoughts, comments and suggestions for further newsletters.

- Hep C U Later is an initiative of the NHS Addictions Provider Alliance (NHS APA) and an innovative collaboration with Gilead Sciences.

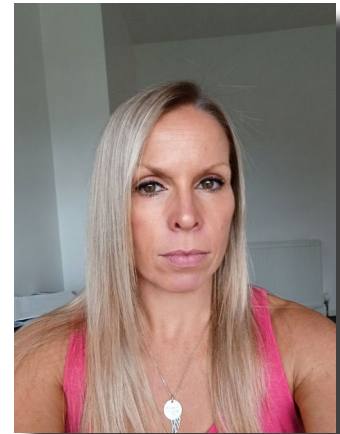


- The NHS APA is a collective of NHS addictions service providers who are working collaboratively with service users, carers and other organisations and are committed to contributing positively to the ongoing development of the addictions field including within drug and alcohol, gambling and gaming treatment.

# Meet the new team members

## *Laura*

Hi I'm Laura the new Hepatitis C Elimination Co-ordinator with Hep C U Later. I am extremely excited to be joining this project not only to help with the micro-elimination of Hep C and supporting all our partners, but to raise awareness of better needle exchange provision and education for all patients. I started my career off as an admin and progressed into needle exchange, so harm reduction has always been a passion of mine. From there I have been fortunate enough to work in the criminal justice system, firstly in police custody suites and then in prisons. Here I was able to work with patients to support them on their recovery journeys. I progressed to management within the prisons and have been privileged to have an active role in the way that services are delivered in order to give the best to our patients.



## *Tony*

As a person with lived experience harm reduction has always been close to my heart, my journey through employment began with volunteering at Birmingham DAAT in 2003 leading on my projects there from a service user involvement perspective. In 2008 I became employed through BDAAT and managed the volunteer and harm reduction training programs delivered to services across Birmingham. I joined inclusion in 2010 working in the Newly commissioned Park House detox and rehab centre I worked there for 5 years as the admissions manager then in 2015 when the contract changed hands I moved to another Inclusion service at HMP Birmingham as a recover practitioner. All through my career I have kept harm reduction at the core of my practice and have lead on many projects in each service I have worked for including being the naloxone lead at each of them, representing them at local naloxone-harm reduction steering groups. As a person who has lived with Hepatitis C and successfully completing treatment myself, the Hep C agenda has always been of interest to me, so when the opportunity came to join the Hep CU Later team I was over the moon to be part of the collaborative effort to make history by eliminating the Hepatitis C virus in the UK by 2025 and globally by 2030



## *Chris*

For the past three years I have worked as a Data Analyst for the Inclusion Hampshire team, where I gained extensive knowledge of the ILLY CarePath system as well as working with Alan Howard and Louise Hansford in developing BBV training and guides. When the opportunity to join the Hep C U Later team arose I was very excited, and now that I have been lucky enough to join them as a Data Analyst I am eager to help the team and partners in the truly historic aim of realising the elimination of Hepatitis C. My role is multi-faceted but broadly speaking I will add my skills to Robert Fair's extensive abilities to enable the Hep C U Later team to drill deeper into your data to help you to choose the best course of action to achieve micro-elimination. This will include an additional report(s) to add a more detailed level of analysis aimed primarily at Data Leads. I shall also be available to our partner services to assist with issues such as investigating inconsistencies in data, checking the data entry process with you, and adding or correcting data for you, if needs be. I look forward to a productive relationship with you all.



## ***The London Joint Working Group Conference (written by Deanne Burch)***

The London Joint Working Group (LJWG) held their annual conference in June to present and discuss the extensive work they are doing around Hepatitis C and the Hep C U Later team were lucky enough to attend.

A very thought provoking presentation was delivered on needle and syringe provision, accessibility, stigma and choice and there was a great example of Hackney delivering holistic harm reduction interventions for under-served groups. Dee Cunniffe also spoke about their vision for peer based needle exchange. My reflection from this was whether we have an opportunity as services 'open-up' again post covid to re-design the needle and syringe services we are delivering with an approach that embodies co-production and reduces health inequalities.

Another key highlight of the LJWG conference was the update from Ian Jackson and Ashley Brown on the expansion of opt-out HIV testing in emergency department to include Hepatitis B and C and how this is being rolled out across London. Werner Leber and Specioza Nabiteeko also spoke about enhance GP case finding in primary care and how this can find people with hepatitis C. This work is essential to find people with blood-borne viruses who otherwise might not have been tested elsewhere.

Professor Godfrey Dusheiko gave an oversight of the global progress toward hepatitis C elimination, with Monica Desai showing England's data perspective and what the areas of focus might need to be in the future. Both Graham Foster and Mark-Gillyon-Powell from NHSE's HCV Programme spoke of the incredible progress that has been made and the key actions over the next few years to reach hepatitis C micro-elimination across the country. Stuart Smith presented on the Hepatitis C Trust's report 'Reframing Reinfections' and Steve Taylor delivered some key information about the recently published drug strategy. There were a number of peers who delivered a talk on their experience of having hepatitis C and becoming a peer. These are the talks that remind us of why we are all here and why this work is so important. For those who weren't able to make it on the day the conference can be viewed here: [The LJWG Conference 2022: 3 years to go to elimination - YouTube](#)

## ***DDN Conference Birmingham 2022 (written by Tony Mullaney)***

As a person with lived experience and having played an active part in furthering the harm reduction agenda I have always attended the national DDN conference. It's an event where once a year we can come together under one roof, from all corners of the UK, service users and professionals alike. This year I attended with a new hat (I have worn many over the years) as a member of the Hep C U Later team, it was great to speak to the many different people regarding the work that Hep C U Later are doing at the moment. I spent a good deal of time connecting with Hepatitis C Trust coordinators and peers from all over the UK regarding the great work they are doing in the effort to micro-eliminate Hep C nationally.

It's always a great pleasure to connect with Philippe Bonnet harm reduction activist for 20 years and the peer coordinator for Hep C Trust (Birmingham and West Midlands) and discuss plans for joint hep C training events we can provide for drug and alcohol services in our area. The highlight of my day was getting to spend some time with Dr Judith Yates, Dr Yates has been at the heart of drug treatment and harm reduction in Birmingham for 40 years. In later years Dr Yates and myself became colleagues and worked at the same service for Inclusion. Though Judith has retired from her role as a GP with Special Interest in Addictions, she has continued to give her time as a harm reduction activist in the arenas of drug related deaths, Hep C treatment and Naloxone provision both local and nationally.

## *DDN Conference continued*

A Peer worker from the Hepatitis C Trust gave an excellent presentation about the importance of making testing for hep C core work in drug and alcohol services, reinforcing the importance of testing for every client entering treatment, re-testing when relevant and the importance of peer involvement from the Hepatitis C trust with the aim of sharing the burden. With the message "leave no one behind".

Finally, I spoke to someone who had recently experienced some quite extreme discrimination in a healthcare setting due to his Hep C status even though he has cleared the virus through treatment, this proves that ignorance around BBV transmission is still happening to people today. We as harm reductionists need to keep health related stigma high on our agenda as we know stigma kills.

What is clear from the conference is that for many hepatitis C is still very high on the agenda.

## *ARC Hounslow cepheid journey*

**We would like to thank Eugenia Moyo, an Outreach Nurse Practitioner from Addiction Recovery Community Hounslow, for providing us with this article.**

ARC Hounslow have taken the baton on the race to Hepatitis C Elimination. The tremendous and consistent support of Louise Hansford, from the Hep C U Later Programme and the unsurpassed commitment and dedication of Jennifer Hannon, Hepatology Clinical Nurse Specialist from Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has made Hounslow achieve the insurmountable task of ensuring testing and Hep C treatment is available to all clients who require this support.

Having the PCR machine Cyril made an enormous difference at ARC Hounslow. Training was provided by Louise in March 2022 and sparked an interest in the staff. The training helped raise awareness of the important task of Hep C Elimination.

Energised by the training provided, staff took on the challenge with enthusiasm and dedication. Interest and commitment in blood borne virus screening, Hep C RNA testing, reaching out to clients who had not accessed this support increased exponentially. Staff embraced working collaboratively with the excellent in-house Hepatology Clinic provided by Dr Foxton and Jennifer Hannon. Hounslow is steaming ahead with the race to Hep C Elimination.

We say goodbye to Cyril at the end of July and befittingly we will be joining other services in celebrating on the World Hepatitis Day of the progress made thus far and the work yet ahead.

Cyril's journey must continue; however, we are sure we will see Cyril the beloved machine again in the near future!





Hep C U Later launched a series of webinars in January 2022 and with these coming to a close we thought it was vital to give people the opportunity to say thank you to a range of colleagues for their efforts towards hepatitis C elimination.

The Hep C U Later Awards were launched in collaboration with NHS England's HCV Programme and their Head of Programme, Mark Gillyon-Powell supported the team in picking the winners. In Hep C U Later's fourth and final webinar in July the winners of the 3 categories were announced.

It has been an absolute pleasure to read each nomination and see the incredible level of commitment and value each individual and team has brought to their services, partnerships, and importantly, the service users they work with. We received a large number of nominations and the winners and those who have been highly commended are as follows:

## The Peer Award

The Peer Award Winner:

- **Jason Dean from The Hepatitis C Trust**

Highly commended for The Peer Award:

- **Jane form Exchange Supplies**
- **The Wessex Clinical Van Peers (Sean Caddy, Alan Howard, Natasha Topham, Vanessa Rodriguez, Clive Williams)**
- **Clive Williams from The Hepatitis C Trust**

## The Innovation Award

The Innovation Award Winner:

- **Sean Caddy and the Wessex Clinical Van**

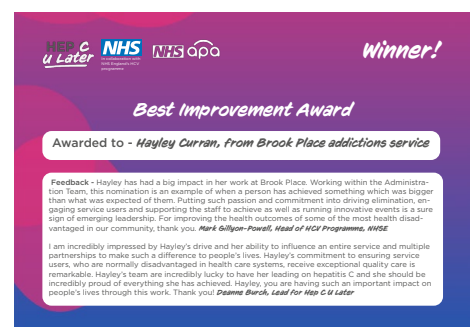
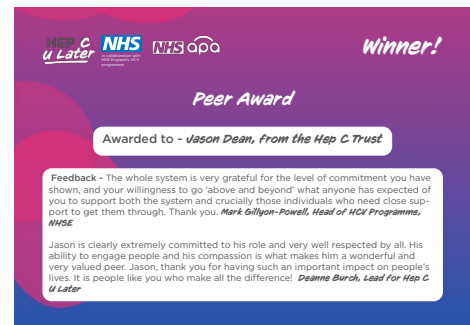
Highly commended for the Innovation Award:

- **The Health Bus, Nottingham**
- **The Clean Slate service, Nottingham**

## The Big Impact/Best Improvement Award

The Big Impact/Best Improvement Award Winner:

- **Hayley Curran from Brook Place, MerseyCare NHS Foundation Trust**



All of the nominees have had an incredible impact on people's lives, demonstrated the utmost compassion, drive and creative thinking and we want to say a massive thank you to each and every one of them for their work and continued efforts!

**Deanne Burch, Lead for Hep C U Later**

# World Hepatitis Day Recap & Contacts

## World Hepatitis Day

World Hepatitis Day took place on the 28th of July and we had a fantastic time with our partners across the NHS APA and beyond.

On the day and the week leading up to it we were with our partners offering testing events in the communities, and providing resources to help spread awareness and education of the Hep C virus.

We want to give a special shout-out to Telford STaRS and the Wessex Clinical Van, who both provided testing events every day in the week leading up to World Hepatitis Day.



To find out more about Hep C U Later please visit us at [www.hepculater.com](http://www.hepculater.com) and follow us on social media  @HepC\_U\_Later  Hep C U Later

For general enquiries, please email us at [HepC.ULater@mpft.nhs.uk](mailto:HepC.ULater@mpft.nhs.uk)

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The work of the Hep C U Later co-ordinators is supported by a great team which includes *Candie Lincoln* (Project Manager), *Rob Fair* (Data Analyst), *Chris Heaps* (Data Analyst), *Tony Mullaney* (Training and Development Coordinator), *Edward Taylor* (Marketing and Communications Assistant) and *Grace Masinuka* (Programmes and Communications Lead).