

# HEP C U Later

**Wessex Clinical Van Report**  
from Quarter 4 of 2021/22

This is the third formal report for the Wessex Clinical Van service.

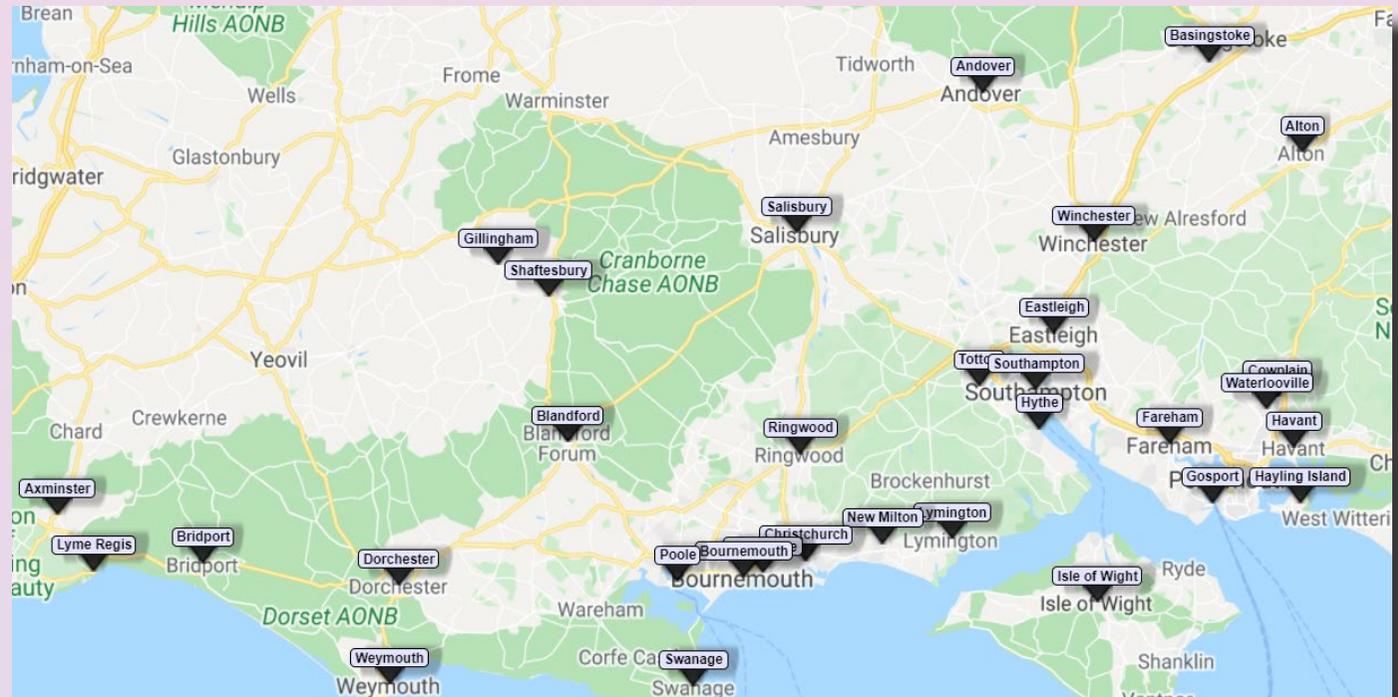
## *Stakeholders*

This service continues to be led by Inclusion's (part of Midland Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) **Inclusion Recovery Hampshire** community drug and alcohol service, which has the largest footprint in the Wessex ODN, supported by Dorset Liver Service.

## *Provisions*

This quarter, the van provision has been provided solely by the Wessex Clinical Van whilst we resolved some issues presented by the second van. We are pleased to say, subject to the funding award for 2022-2024, those issues have been resolved and we have a Van Coordinator for Dorset ready to start working for us. We now have 7 monthly clinic days in Gosport, Havant, Fareham, Southampton, Dorset (variable locations), Isle of Wight and Portsmouth.

The Map to the right shows where the vans have visited between January to March 2022.



# *Pharmacy High Intensity Test and Treat (HITT) Events*

This quarter we have conducted 2 pharmacy events - one in Southampton, and one in Basingstoke.

We saw a total of 22 individuals over the 2 days. The weather proved a hindrance due to storms, and we have some additional learning from these events whereby varying times and having a shift system to improve how we engage all those attending for prescribing and/or needle exchange needs.

## *New additions to the team*

Clare has formally joined the team as our Data and Stakeholder Engagement Lead and has already proven the role is essential for the smooth running of the vans, and also in ensuring accurate and consistent data is captured. We are hoping this role will form part of the van core staff in years 2 & 3.

Clare says “Since joining the Wessex Clinical Van team as their Data and Stakeholder Engagement lead, the whole team has been supportive and welcoming, and has made the transition as smooth as possible. I’ve gotten stuck into the work, starting to handle the van data for Hampshire on top of the data for Dorset, as well as attending plenty of van days out in the community! However, most of my time has been spent creating and co-ordinating the integration of an all-access Clinical Van shared drive across drug treatment services, hospitals, and ODN Hep C coordinators. The function of this is to provide a central platform of information about hep C testing activity, diagnoses, referrals, treatment and follow up testing that can be updated and shared with all invested organisations. Overall, I’m really excited to continue developing the pathways for data and van engagement, and to see how the introduction of these processes impact the accuracy of hep C reporting across Wessex.”



# Data

The vans have been out for a total of 42 days this quarter. This is less than usual partly due to poor weather, but also predictably, we have been impacted by staff on annual leave approaching year-end.

*January - 12*

*February - 16*

*March - 14*

The way data is captured has been streamlined which enables us to count individual patients and their interventions. The change provides data on the number of patients seen and whether there is multiple appointments that means engagement rates can be assessed. This has resulted in a change to the year-to-date figures with an increase in the total contacts. Work is underway to develop dashboards to include treatment start information and track due dates for SVR's. Work is ongoing tracking prevalence via new and historic RNA+ and mapping postcodes. We are also recording robust data on those needing re-treatment. In years 2 & 3, the aims are to map re-infections, and enhance the needle exchange and naloxone recording, along with recording fibro scans and those needing ongoing cirrhosis management and liver cancer surveillance.

The monthly meetings with the ODN co-ordinators to cross reference patient referrals and treatment starts are going well. The introduction of cross-organisational shared drives to communicate and share information has been positive and this ensures every agency receives information they are required to report on, reduces duplication, and is significantly more time effective.

54 van patients started treatment this quarter and 40 SVR's were completed.

There have been 50 Cepheid positive diagnoses this quarter and 20 of those are re-treatments; 5 of these are through non-compliance, and 15 are definite re-infections as they had previously achieved SVR.

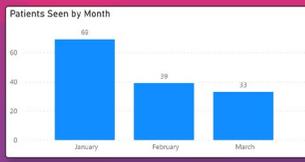
The vans have also carried out 52 needle exchange transactions and taken in 400 litre bins of used equipment. A minimum of 8 naloxone kits have been dispensed. Sampling is underway for the UKHSA Unlinked Anonymous Survey of People Who Inject Drugs across 4 different centres. We have also linked in with the UAM EPIToPe project and we are supporting the survey and testing at the pharmacy events.

# Data (continued)

## Wessex Clinical Van: Activity Report Quarter 4

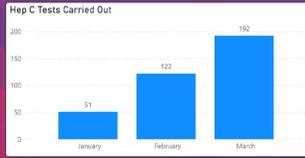
**HEP C  
u Later**

Individuals Seen  
**141**  
Total Contacts  
**362**  
Total Tests  
**365**



Cepheid Detected  
**38**  
Referrals to Hep C Treatment  
**22**  
Naloxone  
**8**

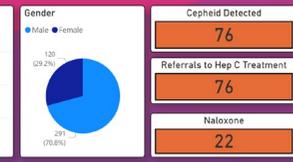
Antibody Tests  
**52**  
Total Cepheid  
**75**  
RNA Positive  
**38**  
RNA Negative  
**45**



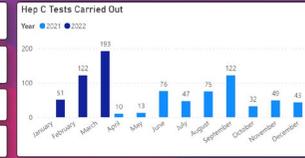
## HCUL Wessex Van: Activity Report April 2021 - March 2022

**HEP C  
u Later**

Individuals Seen  
**448**  
Total Contacts  
**1351**  
Total Tests  
**953**



Antibody Tests  
**316**  
Total Cepheid  
**233**  
RNA Positive  
**76**  
RNA Negative  
**157**



## HCUL Clinical Vans: Activity Report Quarter 4

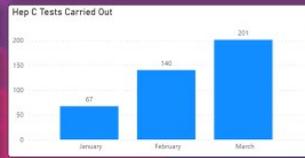
**HEP C  
u Later**

Individuals Seen  
**179**  
Total Contacts  
**436**  
Total Tests  
**408**



Cepheid Detected  
**50**  
Referrals to Hep C Treatment  
**50**  
Naloxone  
**8**

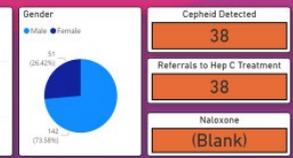
Antibody Tests  
**64**  
Total Cepheid  
**106**  
RNA Positive  
**50**  
RNA Negative  
**66**



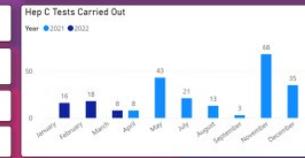
## HCUL Dorset Van: Activity Report April 2021 - March 2022

**HEP C  
u Later**

Individuals Seen  
**205**  
Total Contacts  
**281**  
Total Tests  
**241**



Antibody Tests  
**120**  
Total Cepheid  
**121**  
RNA Positive  
**38**  
RNA Negative  
**83**



## Dorset Clinical Van: Activity Report Quarter 4

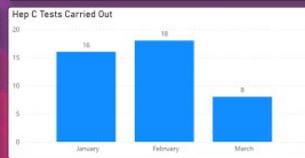
**HEP C  
u Later**

Individuals Seen  
**38**  
Total Contacts  
**70**  
Total Tests  
**42**



Cepheid Detected  
**12**  
Referrals to Hep C Treatment  
**12**  
Naloxone  
**(Blank)**

Antibody Tests  
**12**  
Total Cepheid  
**31**  
RNA Positive  
**12**  
RNA Negative  
**18**



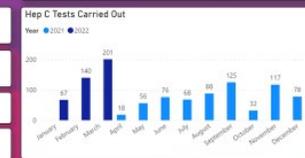
## HCUL Clinical Vans: Activity Report April 2021 - March 2022

**HEP C  
u Later**

Individuals Seen  
**653**  
Total Contacts  
**1632**  
Total Tests  
**1194**



Antibody Tests  
**436**  
Total Cepheid  
**354**  
RNA Positive  
**114**  
RNA Negative  
**240**



## Good news

### We have an update on our case study presented in our Dorset HITT report:

The individual moved around frequently which left us with limited success trying to engage him in the community. In January 2022 we received notification he was in custody, and through liaison with the Hep C Trust prison team, prison healthcare and the ODN we were able to get him started on treatment.

This was a fantastic outcome as there had been concerns raised about his capacity to take medication as prescribed in the community.

We look forward to getting his SVR in June 2022

### British Journal of Nursing - Hepatology Team of the Year 2022

We were pleased that the hepatology nurses from Queen Alexandra Hepatology won this award. They were nominated by staff and patients for their commitment to ensuring hepatitis services continued during the Covid-19 pandemic. They were incredibly responsive and led the way for the up-scaling of the clinical van service, being the first to adapt their clinics and utilise the van during the pandemic.

Karen Gamble, Hepatology Nurse Specialist, said: *"We were really excited to win this award, particularly having heard the fantastic work of other nominees."*



# Feedback

*I was walking past the white van and could see people I knew getting on and off it. I walked over to see what was going on and they offered me a Hep C test. As I have not used a pin in 6 years, I said I was not interested and walked away. The bloke on the van caught up with me and explained that it was only a finger prick and I will be told there and then so I had the test and to my shock they told me I was positive. The 2 blokes on the van were so supportive and even came back the next day to see if I was ok. I am hoping to start medication ASAP.*

Worth getting tested | Care Opinion

*Thank you so much for supporting me in getting Hep C treatment. I would never have had treatment if you had not supported me. To think by just taking one tablet a day for such a short time would cure me and make me feel so much better. Thank you so much for giving me life.*

Thank you so much for giving me life | Care Opinion

*I just wanted to message you and say thank you to Sean so much for all your help, I hope that you are well. You have been amazing and changed my life for the better and yesterday afternoon was the best news I've had for such a long time thank you so much.*

The health bus | Care Opinion

*This service is incredible. I haven't been tested in years because I don't have any veins and it is so much hassle. The fact that you came to my house and used your machine without needing to take bloods from my vein is one thing but to tell me my I don't have Hep C on the same day is out of this world. When I used to go to hospital it would take weeks to get the results. Thank you so much it's such a worry off my mind.*

Incredible service | Care Opinion

## Stakeholder feedback

Sean (pictured on the right), has led on the Wessex Clinical Van project and has worked in substance misuse for 22 years. He says: 'This project is one of his career highlights and he loves seeing people improving their health getting cured of hep C. I get particular enjoyment and satisfaction of getting long-term cases of hep C engaged and treated. This in no part due to the accessibility and mobility of the van, along with the responsiveness and flexibility of working with stakeholders. This is evidenced by a case study from Dorset HITT being picked up quickly in HMP Winchester and started on treatment, who is now back in the community and their SVR is due at the end of June. Data and sharing information is imperative, and what we can achieve when we work collaboratively. Thank you NHSE for enabling us to reach the previously unreachable'.

Alan, the lead for MSD Cepheid machine Cindy says: 'The Gene Xpert/ Cepheid testing method has changed the landscape of testing for hepatitis C. Joined up with van provision, a real dent has been made in health inequalities. Poor venous access and inability to travel to services is no longer a barrier to accessing specialist health care and the ability to accurately diagnose hepatitis C in the same day reduces anxiety related to waiting for test results. This testing method is addressing the issue of poor venous access for patient groups and is evidenced in the numbers of new diagnosis' that otherwise may not have been diagnosed. Thank you NHSE and MSD'.



## Case study

Daniel believed he had hep C for a while, in September 2021 we invited him to a venue local to him to have a Cepheid test done, and he was assessed for treatment at the same time. Two weeks later Daniel started treatment, he kept in touch with the van team and during our European Testing Week HITT Daniel attended for an end of treatment Cepheid test but more importantly he bought his friends. This was a big thing to Daniel as originally he did not want anyone to know but through talking to the team he realised he had nothing to be ashamed about and he wanted to protect his peers.

Here's some thoughts from Daniel:

*"Hi my name's Daniel, I was really scared to do treatment for hepatitis c as I'd been told for around 10 years how bad the treatment was, so I didn't bother getting treatment. Then, I found out about the van that can test you and give you support. They helped me through everything not only the hepatitis but the support they give you afterwards, they call me from time to time to check in on me I'm an ex addict was in and out of jail for a lot of years. I been out of trouble for 5 yrs now and off drugs for about the same but I messed up one time that was through stress with my hepatitis C treatment, the anxiety of doing it but if it wasn't for the ladies on the bus and men saying the treatment is fine and explaining it all to me I wouldn't have done it. I have now got rid of my hep c and feel great and it's thanks to u guys seriously can't thank you enough for the support you have given me and others. I lived all around Dorset and know people in Dorset that still need support so I have passed on the message. Thank you guys so much".*

Daniel achieved his SVR in April 2022. He has had all his treatment carried out on the van at a location near to where he lives. We are very pleased that Dan is going to start coming out with the van team to find the people not known to services and share his story. This peer to peer approach will encourage others to get tested and treated.



## *Summary*

The Wessex Clinical Vans have exceeded all expectations for year 1, and the stakeholders buy-in has been exceptional with everyone coming together for a united purpose and shared vision.

The van has been used to carry out fibro scans and liver assessments, as well as providing peer support, naloxone, needle exchange and healthcare referrals. We are now carrying out SVR's on people who have been diagnosed and treated solely on the van.

We continue to make new diagnoses and estimate we have reached 85 people who were not engaged with services. A high percentage of these have now accessed their local drug services and many are now on opiate substitute prescribing. This has the benefit to potentially reduce drug related deaths.

### **Funding and plans for 2022-2024**

The proposed funding for the van has been added to the ODN Financial information.