



## Wessex Clinical Van Report from Quarter 1 of 2022/23

This is the fourth formal report for the Wessex Clinical Van service and the first for Year 2 (2022-2023) of the project.

## Stakeholders

The Wessex Clinical Van service continues to be led by Inclusion Recovery Hampshire's community drug and alcohol service, which is part of Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. The service has the largest footprint in the Wessex ODN, supported by Dorset Liver Service.

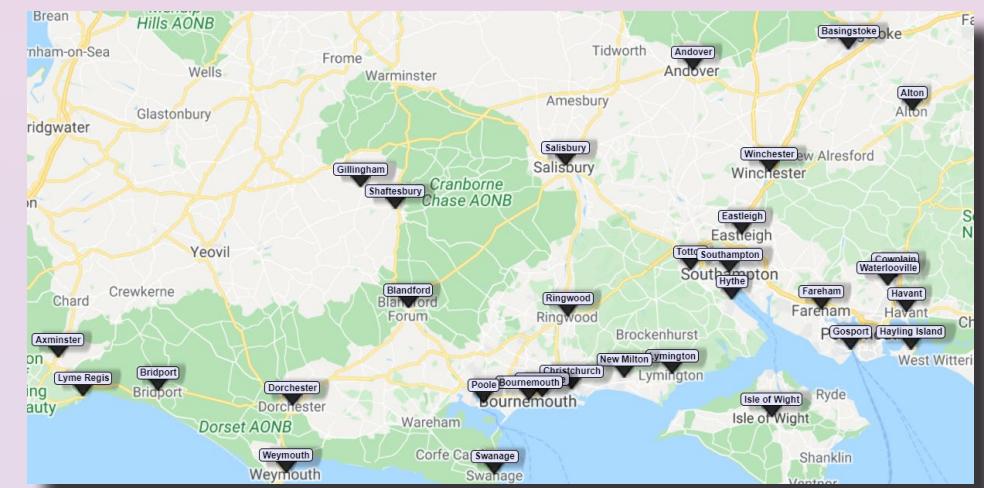
In April, we held a key staff day where the core team came together to evaluate the first year of working in collaboration. The aim of the day was to explore the various pathways across the region and ensure we had effective ways of sharing information and data recording. The main learning was around allocating enough time to record interventions, which will in turn ensure we do not lose anyone to follow up. It was a productive day and we celebrated all we had achieved through working in partnership.

## Provisions

We were successful in securing funding for Year 2 and for us to be able to enhance the provision. We welcomed James, as our band 6 nurse for the Dorset Clinical Van, provision 2 days a week. One of the challenges of being out 2 days a week is the lack of time for record keeping and administrative duties. We have therefore extended the Dorset provision to include additional time for recording.

The Dorset Clinical Van has an external generator which needs to be used when we use the Cepheid machine or Fibro scanner. This has proven challenging and we have subsequently secured use of a second van from Inclusion Recovery Hampshire to support the Dorset provision. This should be active in September 2022.

We continue to have 7 monthly clinic days in Gosport, Havant, Fareham, Southampton, Dorset (variable locations), Isle of Wight and Portsmouth. We are committed to ensuring equity of access across the region and also targeting areas of highest need.



# Hep C Awareness Week and European Testing Week

The vans were exceptionally busy during the Hep C Awareness Week (25th April – 29th April) and European Testing Week (16th – 23rd May 2022).

*A total of 127 tests were carried out and 13 new diagnosis were found.*

## *HCV Awareness Week*

25th April: Wimborne and the Isle of Wight  
26th April: Portsmouth with Society of St James.  
27th April: Inclusion Hampshire  
28th April: Patrick House Hostel and Southampton  
29th April: Fareham and Gosport

## *European Testing Week*

16th May: Wareham Hospital Swanage  
17th May: Day Lewis Pharmacy (Southampton)  
18th May: HMP Erlestoke  
19th May: Bournemouth  
20th May: Havant



# Pharmacy HITS

This quarter, we have carried out 5 pharmacy testing events. Four of these have been within Southampton, in partnership with Change Grow Live and Southampton Hepatology Nurses. A total of 55 people were seen at these events with nine people being RNA+, four of these have started treatment this quarter, with the rest being assertively engaged and supported.

As part of the pharmacy HITS we have also contributed to the UAM EPIToPe project by sampling the people seen. This survey is being undertaken as an enhancement to the ongoing Unlinked Anonymous Monitoring (UAM) Survey of People Who Inject Drugs (PWID). The study is being carried out by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) under the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) grant for the Evaluating the Population Impact of Hepatitis

C Direct Acting Antiviral Treatment as Prevention for People Who Inject Drugs (EPIToPe) project.

The Wessex ODN have also secured funding to employ a pharmacy-based Hepatitis C Trust Peer Support Lead and we have started the planning meeting for this project. Once the recruitment has been undertaken we will be having regular meetings to assess how the projects will interlink.



## Isle of Wight

One of the first events we conducted using the clinical vans was the high-intensity test and treat on the Isle of Wight in May 2021. At this event we found nine people who were RNA+ and required treatment. However, 6 months later, only one of them had made it onto treatment due to high levels of non-attendance at St Mary's Hospital in Newport. Every one of these patients had a minimum of 3 appointments sent to them, Inclusion had arranged taxis with pharmacists and keyworkers, reminding patients of their appointments. We subsequently started to hold regular testing clinics at the service, also in Newport and had very good attendance.

The van team approached Dr. Mark Wright who agreed to release his senior nurse Liz Burge and ODN Pharmacist, Yun Kim to come over and run a treatment clinic at the service. These have always been directly after a testing and engagement event to maximise attendance. Recently, we picked up 2 brand new infections which may have gone undiagnosed if it was not for this van intervention.

This model has been highly successful, we have identified one reinfection and two people who did not take their first course of DAA's as prescribed and remained HCV+. All three have been assertively engaged to be retreated and so far two have started their second course of medication.

To date, 14 people have started treatment, the majority of these had a long history of not attending appointments. We have also supported the team to complete this year's sample for the UAM survey.



## Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) have large numbers of untreated HCV (around 150). They recently had a change of drug treatment provider and We Are With You (WAWY) now provide services across the conurbation.

We allowed them time to implement their new contract and complete a full HCV audit in partnership with Dorset Liver Service, which has been going on behind the scenes. In May, we carried out 3 consecutive Thursday testing events across BCP which were successful in engaging patients, particularly those previously lost to follow or disengaged from treatment pathways. Since then, we have had several meetings with WAWY and in Quarter 2, the Dorset van will be concentrating on BCP as this is currently where the highest need is.

WAWY will also be introducing their Needle Exchange van in the autumn and we will be closely collaborating with this initiative.

### ***HM Prison Erlestoke***

We were invited into HM Prison Erlestoke and have subsequently carried out two testing events with the lead BBV Nurse, where we tested 41 people. The team diagnosed three people, and two started treatment in this quarter, with the remaining one due to start in July 2022.



# Data

The vans have been out for a total of 64 days this quarter.

April	May	June
19	23	22

The vans have also completed 58 treatments this quarter.

April	May	June
15	19	24

## *RNA+ this quarter*

This quarter the van team identified 27 new diagnoses, of which 16 people need to be retreated - 6 are reinfections and 10 are due to non adherence.

One of the reinfections was originally treated in 2016, and maintained their SVR until recently with 6 monthly tests until that point. This showed us that there are untreated and undiagnosed HCV within the community, which is not engaged with drug treatment as the local service has treated all its RNA+. We will be encouraging this person to engage their peers for us to offer testing and treatment and it is likely we will incentivise this.

# Data Dashboards

## Wessex Van: Activity Report All Activity - Q1 2022-23



**HEP C  
u Later**



## HCUL Clinical Vans: Activity Report All Activity - Q1 2022-23



**HEP C  
u Later**



## Dorset Van: Activity Report All Activity - Q1 2022-23

**Individuals Seen**

**95**

**Total Contacts**

**134**

**Total Tests**

**75**

**Antibody Tests**

**56**

**Total Cepheid**

**19**

**RNA Positive**

**7**

**RNA Negative**

**12**

**Patients Seen by Month**

**65**

**April**

**May**

**June**

**Gender**

**Male**

**Female**

**25**

**(26.32%)**

**70**

**(73.68%)**

**HEP C  
u Later**

**Cepheid Detected**

**7**

**Referrals to Hep C Treatment**

**7**

*Select or drag fields to populate this visual*

**Age and Gender**

**Female**

**Male**

**3**

**9**

**3**

**12**

**9**

**15**

**6**

**20**

**6**

**12**

**2**

**2**

**2**

## Case study

Bonnie has been known to the van team for over 10 years and it is with great pleasure that we are able to share her story.

Bonnie's personal experience is very powerful because she resisted HCV treatment for several years. Now she has been treated, her world has opened up.

Bonnie recently completed the peer-to-peer mentor training with The Hepatitis C Trust and she is already empowering others to get tested and treated. We absolutely love it when someone who has benefited from the support comes along to help others and are super proud of Bonnie.



*"After living with Hep C for many years I finally got myself into treatment with the help of the Wessex clinical Van Team. Without their encouragement and support I probably would have never gone ahead with it.. Once I'd got the all clear and I got stable I started looking into volunteering with the support of them. I have already been on some amazing courses and have been out on the van numerous times. It has even such a positive experience to be able to see how it all works and how much it has really helped get more people tested and treated for Hep C."*

# Care opinion

## My treatment has worked | Care Opinion

“Without the van, I would not have had treatment for Hepatitis C and I may not be here today. The Van team have been great - they have regularly come to the area where I live which is isolated and they have never given up on me. Without them taking the time to come to me and work with me, I would not have got treatment. The other day they came over and did a test to see if my treatment has worked. The test came back negative which means that so far, my treatment has worked. The continued support and advice the van team have given me means that I now understand Hepatitis C a lot better and am able to make decisions and access services that will help me to avoid getting infected again. I can’t thank you all enough.”

## The work you do is very special | Care Opinion

“I suffer from really bad anxiety which makes it very difficult for me to leave my home. I have not been looking after myself or my home because of this and my mood was becoming increasingly low. The van and its staff have been supporting me through a second course of treatment for Hepatitis C and I needed a blood test to see if the treatment had worked. Getting blood from my veins is impossible and the thought of leaving my home to do this was causing my mood to worsen even more. I was reassured that the van would come to me and that only a blood test using blood from a finger would be needed. Staff from the van took their time to listen to me about my mood and how bad things were getting for me and helped me to start to make some changes. A blood test was taken and I was contacted later in the day to be told that my treatment had been successful. The staff on the van helped me and not only did they give me brilliant news about my treatment but I have now started to take better care of myself and my home.

I left a message to let them know that finding out my treatment has worked and taking time to listen to me and give me advice about support for my mood has I believe saved my life as I was in a place and no-one knew how bad it was. The work you do is very special and I can’t thank you all enough.

If you ever doubt what you do, you need to know that you probably saved my life.”

## Summary

This quarter has been a time for reflection and refinement of how we do things. The extended team have worked tirelessly to ensure equity of provision across the region. We have undertaken over 85 UAM surveys and 15 EPIToPe surveys which will in turn provide valuable data for us to plan the provision over the next 2 years.

We are preparing to recruit new members of the team to further develop and enhance the service. Our new Hep C U Later Data Lead Chris, will be supporting us with our data collection. He is currently adapting Inclusion's Illy Carepath patient database to capture treatment information, which can then be extracted easily for reporting. One of the biggest challenges to date, has been tracking an individual's treatment journey across different databases and we remain determined to capture this accurately.

With the NHSE Needs Assessment project approaching, we anticipate Quarter 2 being busy and plans are in place to make the project a success.