

# HEP C U Later

Wessex Clinical Van Report  
from Quarter 3 of 2022/23

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

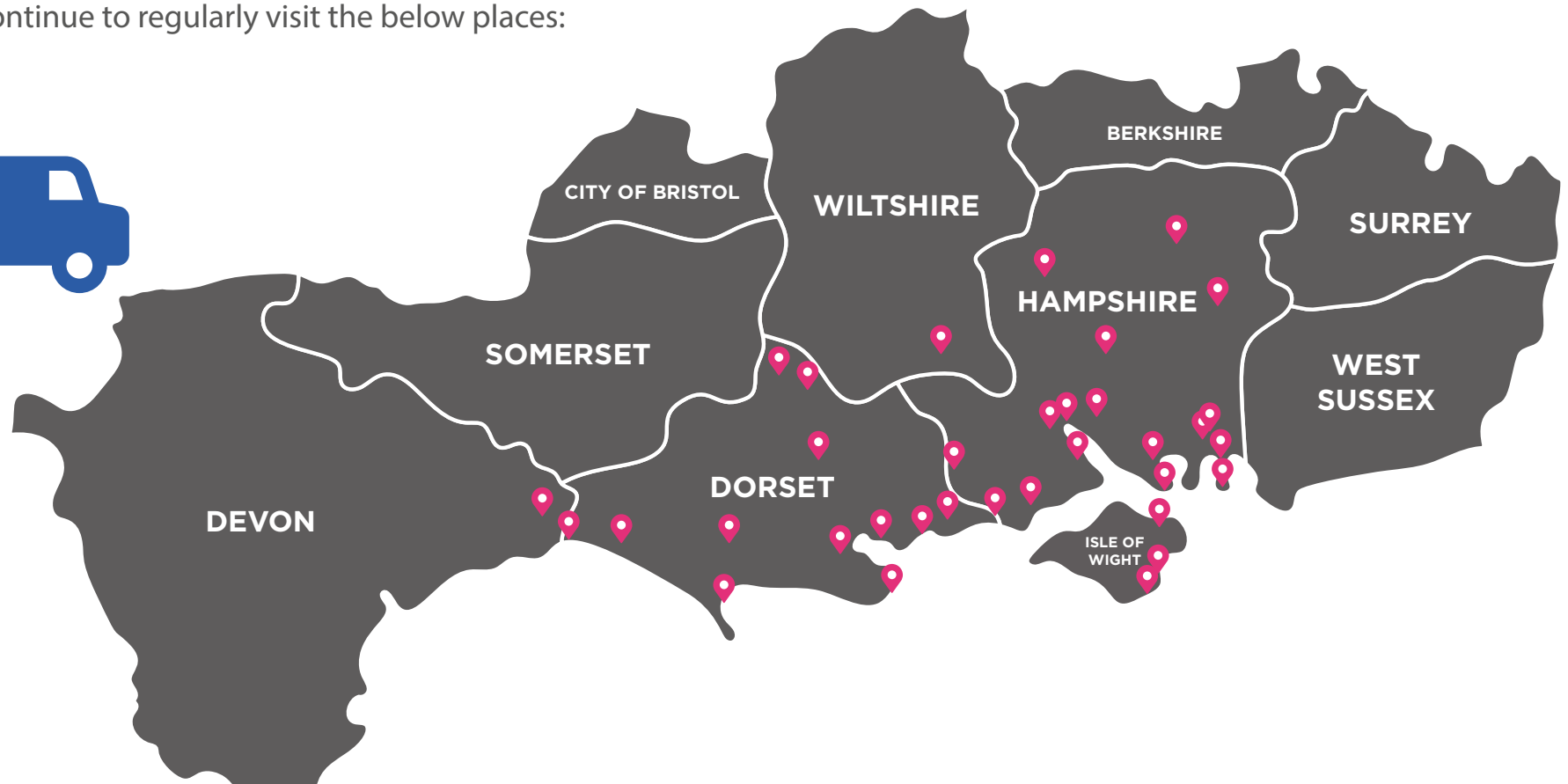
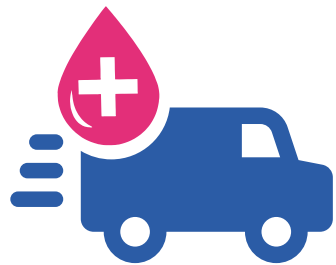
### *Stakeholders*

This service continues to be led by MPUFT's Inclusion Recovery Hampshire community drug and alcohol service, which has the largest footprint in the Wessex ODN, supported by the Dorset Liver Service and Liver 4 Life charity.

### *Geographical Reach*

The vans have been to every part of Wessex this quarter, we have ensured equity of access across the region and have utilised the Needs Assessment to enable us to visit new towns and places.

The vans continue to regularly visit the below places:



## Mentors

We continue to develop our volunteering and mentoring offer, working closely with The Hepatitis C Trust. We have 6 mentors who regularly come out on the vans and they were a real asset during the Needs Assessment Project, sharing their experiences and informing service users about the project, empowering people to take part.

We secured scholarships to take Bonnie and Lindsay, volunteers who originated from Inclusion Recovery Hampshire's Hep C Hants P2P project, to INHSU 2022 in Glasgow. Bonnie and Lindsay took part in the INHSU Community Day the day before the main conference and thoroughly enjoyed their time during the 4 conference days, both learning lots and having their eyes opened to the power of peers and lived experience worldwide. Bonnie has since supported INHSU with their scholarship applications for the 2023 conference. Bonnie said "INHSU 2022 was an amazing experience. I learnt heaps, felt like part of something incredible, and met some awesome people. It really opened my eyes to what people who use drugs can achieve,"



## *Staffing and Resources*

We waved goodbye to our band 6 nurse James as he and his wife went travelling. Clare's six month contract with us also came to an end and we wished her well as she took up a new role in Sheffield. We welcomed Elaine as a permanent member of the team, and Suzanne who took a six month secondment with us.

We also took delivery of our new vans in Inclusion Recovery Hampshire and secured use of one of these for the Wessex Clinical Van project. We have named our vans to avoid confusion, the one below is George, due it being shared with the Winchester Team located in St. George's Street. Our original van is called Charlie in honour of one of our service users who sadly passed away.



# Needs Assessment Year 1

The planning over the summer came to fruition as the teams undertook the Wessex ODN Needs Assessment Project Year 1. Wessex Van teams led on the project with Inclusion Recovery Hampshire's Hep C Hants P2P and Harm Minimisation teams. Our other partners included our seven drug services:

Inclusion – Hampshire and Isle of Wight

We Are With You – Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP)

EDP and Avon and Wiltshire Partnership – Dorset

Turning Point – Salisbury

Change Grow Live – Southampton

Society of St James and Inclusion – Portsmouth

Along with, Exchange Supplies, Liver 4 Life and The Hepatitis C Trust, key staff members, volunteers, students and nurses from each organisation came together to deliver the testing across our drugs services and outreach locations.

The core team were tasked with testing 400 service users in drug treatment, 200 with an injecting history, with an aim to reach 80 service users who do regularly engage. Alongside this we were tasked with testing 200 service users with no history of injecting.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** **HEP C u Later**

NHS England need your help to complete a Needs Assessment, so we can diagnose people at risk for blood borne viruses, offer treatment and plan for the future.

From Tuesday 20th September, we'll be offering **quick, non-invasive, finger prick tests** to anyone that comes to see us. The samples will be tested for: **Hep C, HIV and Hep B.**

**MONDAY 10TH OCTOBER**  
Starting at 10AM  
We will be testing at Midlands Living properties

- \* 10am 5/ 6 St Clements
- \* 11am 99/101 Southcote Road
- \* 12pm Windham Road
- \* 1pm 7 Windsor Road

Get tested and you will receive a **£5 Love2shop voucher!** It's simple, quick and easy, so why wait?

NHS we are with you inclusion



# Needs Assessment Year 1

The Hepatitis C Trust were tasked with testing 250 people accessing needle exchanges at the pharmacy, and the Liver 4 Life van was hired to complete this.

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Solutions</i>
<p>Project brought forward by 1 month and securing resources</p> <p>Policies and procedures changing and several updates to the NHSE Needs Assessment SOP</p> <p>Email blindness - lots of emails, team were unsure whether they were reading the most up to date one</p> <p>Sickness within team</p> <p>Data Quality - External pressure meant people were not coded correctly, making harder to disseminate results.</p> <p>Conflicting messages across the different stakeholders involved in the project particularly during postal strikes and UKAS inspection</p> <p>Varied buy in from stakeholders</p> <p>161 Rejected Tests</p> <p>Reporting – Lab reporting delayed, PDF's not received until 23rd December.</p> <p>Starting Treatment – delays in getting people seen</p>	<p>Planning will begin for year 2 in April 23</p> <p>Dedicated project lead to disseminate to others and update stored documents, archiving previous versions.</p> <p>Dedicated project lead to disseminate to others</p> <p>Morning briefings to rejig plans</p> <p>Strict boundaries and cross referencing ahead of NPEX being filled out</p> <p>Project board established by June 23, clear roles and responsibilities assigned</p> <p>Engagement plan being developed</p> <p>Team now aware of correct labelling</p> <p>Hep C U Later Data Lead on-board and adapted systems to capture data</p> <p>Pathways established with prioritised access to treatment</p>

# Needs Assessment Year 1 Findings

- 587 individual service users were tested (some were tested twice due to rejected samples)
- 396 service users with an injecting history, 191 non injecting history
- 108 listed as X codes (people outside of treatment for at least 12 months who have a history of injecting) but further analysis has shown at least 42 of these were actually in structured treatment
- 3 HIV positives – 2 known and 1 needing confirmation bloods
- 3 HBV positives – all who were referred for venous bloods. 2 confirmed as not detected on venous samples
- 39 HCV with 16 new diagnoses including 2 people who became reinfected and 4 requiring retreatment through poor treatment compliance
- 1 was incorrectly listed as acute infection (previously took 2 weeks of treatment)
- Percentages of positives HCV compared tested – whole cohort =  $39/587 = 6.64\%$  and IV user cohort  $31/328 = 9.45\%$
- 4 surprise hepatitis C diagnoses with 3 of them within people who were non injectors
- 2 people in long term recovery diagnosed and started on treatment and up to 7 more have since commenced
- 2 completed treatment this quarter

Work continues to engage all those needing further testing and/or treatment

# Needs Assessment Year 1 Summary

The project was successful and exemplifies how productive collaborative working can be. The team were understandably very disappointed and frustrated about the rejected samples. However, they showed true resilience and continued for a further 4 weeks in order to complete our sampling and retest those whose samples had been rejected.

The project was an excellent opportunity to re-engage service users with a known, and often historic hepatitis C diagnosis. The Hepatitis C Trust empowered several people in long term recovery who had been resistant to treatment to not only take part in the project but also to commence DAA's.

We engaged two people in Salisbury, one of whom turned 80 this quarter and another who had previously been unable to take their DAA treatment as prescribed. This person has been offered ongoing support with a view to reassessment for a second course of treatment.





## *European Testing Week 21 - 28 November 2022*

The team finished the Needs Assessment testing and went straight into the autumn European Testing Week. For this we concentrated on re-engaging people lost to follow up and we managed to complete around 15 SVR's using our Cepheid's fondly named Cindy and Clarisse.



## *Hep C U Later Innovation Award*

In December, the team from Inclusion Recovery Hampshire welcomed Mark Gillyon-Powell, Head of NHS England's Hepatitis C Elimination Programme, and Deanne Burch, the Lead for Hep C U Later to the Fareham hub. Sean was delighted to receive the Hep C U Later Innovation Award on behalf of the Wessex Clinical Van Team. This is a prestigious award, in hard a fought category and everyone was over joyed to have won the award.



## *GP Project Update*

The GP project continues, although time spent on it has been restricted by the Needs Assessment project. This quarter, we identified someone who was over 17 years in long term recovery for who was hepatitis C positive. The GP had received a PHE Lookback letter for him in 2021 and requested bloods which were carried out. He was then referred to Hepatology but a year later had not been seen, we believe this was because of the referral pathway the GP had in place which has now been adapted. The team engaged with him and he started treatment in November 2022.

During the data cleansing and auditing process, we realised for future reporting it would be beneficial to recode those needing no further intervention. As a result, this quarter we have updated 11 records with 'Hep C Resolved' following evidence of SVR (now coded XaXET). There are around 89 patients who we have evidence of an SVR to work through and offer retesting where there is evidence of risk factors. Through this work, we have also provided SVR information to other ODN's where they carried out the patient's treatment to aid with record completeness.

A further 19 patients have been seen by the van team and their GP records have been updated. We recruited one new mentor for The Hepatitis C Trust and always have conversations with patients about this opportunity.

The work continues and we will carry on working with MSD on how to get the most out of the tool, and seek to understand the anomalies with people not appearing on reports. We recognise the need to spend regular time on the project and will endeavour to do this, however, this is also hindered by room availability onsite at the practice.

# INHSU conference Glasgow 2022


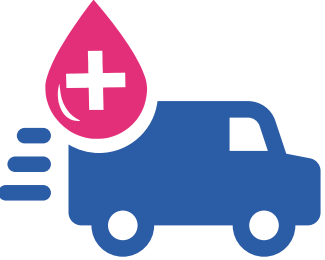
The team were privileged to attend the International Network of Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users Conference in Glasgow 2022. Louise presented on the Wessex Clinical Van and this was well received, with enquiries from around the world on our work.





# Data

The two / three vans have been out for a total of 104 days this quarter due to the Needs Assessment

 <p>Total number of days the vans have been out per month:</p>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
	51	35	18
 <p>Total number of treatments started on the van per month:</p>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
	17	12	7

## Hepatitis C RNA+ information

20 new (nor previously diagnosed or treated) hepatitis C RNA+ this quarter

There have also been a further 20 hepatitis C RNA+ diagnoses with people who have been treated before, of which 14 people have become reinfected, and 6 requiring retreatments due to poor compliance with their first DAA treatment.



# Dashboard

The data this quarter has been affected by the 161 rejected Needs Assessment tests. This has caused errors within our reporting which we are working hard to resolve. For this reason we have taken some of our reporting fields off the dashboards this quarter, whilst we continue to work behind the scenes on the data. Alongside this, the van teams have plans to retest all those service users whose test were rejected.



*Wessex Clinical Van and Hepatitis C treatment and support I Care Opinion*

The Van and it's Team have been amazing. They have brought the van to where I live and I probably wouldn't have accessed the care I needed if this hadn't been done. As a results of this, I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C and prescribed a course of treatment.

The van has come to me regularly, along with a Nurse to start me on my treatment and returned every month to deliver it to me so I didn't miss out on any of it. Not only have they come to me in the van but they have also supported me over the phone and helped to arrange a hospital appointment for another health need I have.

I had my last month of medication delivered today and am looking forward to seeing the van team again in 16 weeks when I will know if my treatment has worked.

Thanks for everything you all do.

*Being tested for Hepatitis C I Care Opinion*

I've had treatment for Hepatitis C before but was worried that I may have got it again after I got pricked with someone else's needle.

I contacted the people that work on the van and they arranged to come out and see me. They came out to the area where I live and met me in a place that I felt comfortable which was really helpful as I suffer from anxiety.

They did a blood test on me and gave me lots of information. They were really kind and got back to me with my results very quickly.

My results were negative and the person that contacted me explained how to keep myself safe. The van is such a good and reliable service - it came to me and allowed me to get tested. Not only has it given me peace of mind with my results but I also know that I can contact this service again if I need to.

Thanks for all your support

## ***Summary:***

This has been another exceptionally busy quarter as we led on the Needs Assessment whilst keeping business as usual initiatives going. We are constantly adapting our data systems to capture and report on additional elements of the service. We have now established ourselves within the local communities and have regular requests for training and testing events.