

Councillor David Roche – Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health

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Councillor A Carter 26th November 2020

By email adam.carter@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Carter

Council Meeting – 11th November 2020

At the above-mentioned meeting you asked if you could be provided with a breakdown of the numbers of people using the Drugs and Alcohol Service. The referral data from the services indicates that there have been more referrals and more active clients, especially in the months following the first national lockdown. This is from CGL caseload and activity data, so includes new enquiries, not all of which become longer term clients.

	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19
Referrals	28	23	26	36	42	23	37
Active Clients	1045	1086	1033	1056	1125	1159	1168

	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20
Referrals	28	43	66	73	91	101	97
Active Clients	1142	1156	1178	1204	1225	1239	1227

Increase / Decrease	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Referrals	→ 0	↑ 20	↑ 40	↑ 37	↑ 49	↑ 78	↑ 60
Active Clients	↑ 97	↑ 70	↑ 145	↑ 148	↑ 100	↑ 80	↑ 59

Increase / Decrease	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Referrals	→ 0%	↑ 87%	↑ 153%	↑ 102%	↑ 116%	↑ 339%	↑ 162%
Active Clients	↑ 9%	↑ 6%	↑ 14%	↑ 14%	↑ 8%	↑ 7%	↑ 5%

The following set of information is from NDTMS the national system which breaks it down by substance which shows less dramatic increases, but you can see the alcohol increase more clearly highlighted yellow on the overall system .

NDTMS:New Presentations YTD

Drug	Apr-Jun 2019	Apr-Sept 2019		Apr-Jun 2020	Apr-Sept 2020
Opiate	46	124		58	144
Non-opiate only	17	48		21	48
Non-opiate and alcohol	12	35		14	44
Alcohol only	59	180		87	161
Total	134	387		180	397

Numbers in Treatment-Rolling 12 months

Drug	Jul18-Jun19	Oct18-Sept19		Jul19-Jun20	Oct19-Sept20
Opiate	1021	1024		1033	1059
Non-opiate only	116	129		152	165
Non-opiate and alcohol	71	85		99	120
Alcohol only	359	422		495	524
Total	1567	1660		1779	1868

In remaining open and working with new and existing service users during the pandemic CGL have provided a COVID secure space for people in the most need to access support where previous support mechanisms have been limited i.e. limits on contacts with friends and families or where agencies have had to close.

The increase in referrals is partly down to the service becoming more accessible and flexible - it is easier and quicker to access prescribed treatment than ever before and reduced supervision of prescribed medication allows treatment to become more tailored to what service users want.

Feedback from people using the service is that not having to go the chemist everyday has reduced cravings and triggers bumping into peers they have drunk alcohol or used drugs with. Service users feel they are more in control of their treatment journeys.

Social media, virtual groupwork and telephone contact has meant more contact with people than ever before, allowing the service to be more responsive. Parents and their families are finding it easier to maintain engagement by using telephone appointments and virtual appointments around childcare responsibilities.

I hope above information in helpful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor David Roche
Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Health