

Contract awarded for million pound service for people with drug misuse problems.

Sheffield Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) on behalf of Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership has today announced the award of a new contract which represents an investment of over a million pounds in the Sheffield treatment system for people with drug and alcohol misuse problems.

The contract, which will commence on 1st June 2010, has been awarded to Sheffield Primary Care Trust (SPCT). SPCT will work in partnership with other agencies to ensure Sheffield has a range of recovery focused, quality treatment services which are appropriate for the diverse needs of all substance misusing individuals across the city.

The services to be provided by SPCT are:

- A central clinic where a number of Sheffield GPs provide a substitute prescribing service for drugs which will aim to help people stabilise, reduce their illicit usage or detox to achieve abstinence;
- A clinic which provides a substitute prescribing service for pregnant women with drug and alcohol misuse problems;
- A Shared Care Team to support GPs that provide a substitute prescribing service and/or alcohol treatment provision within their practices.

All drug and alcohol services in Sheffield are being tendered as part of a major procurement exercise to ensure they are focused on delivering the best outcomes for service users as well as providing the best possible value for public money.

Funding for these services is provided through the National Treatment Agency (NTA) and the Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership and managed by Sheffield DAAT.

The NTA sets exacting targets for the DAAT to meet, which include increasing the numbers of people getting into effective treatment, being retained in treatment and completing treatment drug-free.

Jo Daykin-Goodall, Director of Substance Misuse Strategy for Sheffield said:

“The Sheffield Partnership is committed to ensuring we have a range of services focused on delivering the best outcomes for service users, as well as providing the best value for public resources.”

Simon Gilby, Managing Director of SPCT said: “We are delighted to be delivering this service which plays a vital role in reducing drug dependency in the city, by providing direct support and specialist treatment. We would like to increase the availability of treatment for people and will be working closely with other key services to achieve this.”

To find out more about drug and alcohol treatment services in Sheffield visit:
www.sheffielddaat.org.uk

Notes to editors

Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership is the responsible body in Sheffield for ensuring that the National Drug and Alcohol Strategies are implemented at local level. The officers employed to take forward the implementation of the drug and alcohol strategies are known as the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)

Sheffield Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) is a strategic team. It works as part of the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership which includes representatives from NHS Sheffield, Sheffield City Council, Probation and the Police.

The DAAT is responsible for translating the Government's National Strategies for treatment on drug and alcohol misuse into action. The DAAT implements the National Drug and Alcohol Strategies by working with the Partnership, service providers, service users and their carer's to develop treatment services, and ensure that those who need treatment get it as quickly, easily and efficiently as possible.

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National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) is a special health authority established by the Government in 2001 to improve the availability, capacity and effectiveness of treatment for drug misuse in England.

Contact details: the Communications Team handles all media enquiries.

During office hours contact 020 7972 1802 e-mail: communications@nta-nhs.org.uk

Out of hours: we operate an emergency out of hours service for media enquiries. Please ring 07795 0365460. If calls are not answered immediately, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.