

Report

Report to: **Social Work Resources Committee**
 Date of Meeting: **28 June 2023**
 Report by: **Director, Health and Social Care**

Subject: **Implementing Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards in South Lanarkshire - Update**

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to: -

- ♦ provide an update on the local approach to the national priority to implement Medication Assisted Treatment Standards for people with problematic drug use

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s): -

- (1) that progress to implementing the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards is noted.

3. Background

3.1. In 2021, there were 1,330 drug misuse deaths registered in Scotland. This was a decrease of 1% (9 deaths) compared with 2020. It is the second highest drug misuse deaths figure on record. Deaths have increased substantially over the past few decades – there were more than five times as many deaths in 2021 compared with 1996. 2021 is the first year since 2013 that drug misuse deaths have not increased.

Table C1: Drug misuse deaths by Council area, 2010 to 2020 (with averages for 2006-2010 and 2016-2020)

All persons	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Scotland	485	584	581	527	614	706	868	934	1,187	1,280	1,339	1,330
North Lanarkshire	36	27	38	38	33	42	49	53	72	95	94	80
South Lanarkshire	26	34	29	37	34	31	64	49	58	68	91	101

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/drug-related-deaths/21/drug-related-deaths-21-report.pdf>

- 3.2. Nationally, opioids continue to be present in majority of deaths with a noted increase in the additional presence of multiple other contributory substances (e.g. benzodiazepines, pregabalin and gabapentin). This change in use and potential for increased levels of harm resulted in delivery of a set of standards known as the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards (Appendix 1). They were produced in response to the emergent public health crisis by the Drug Death Task Force on behalf of Scottish Government. The expectation is that these Standards will be prioritised and delivered by services operating within Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs).
- 3.3. The MAT Standards aim to ensure everyone who needs it is offered, and supported, to access a consistent and evidence-based service that delivers safe, high-quality care and treatment in line with the *Rights, Respect and Recovery Strategy* (2019).
- 3.4. As a member of the local Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP), South Lanarkshire HSCP is working in collaboration with other ADP partners to maximise the capacity capable of providing a whole system response to people adversely affected by substance use. Delivery of the MAT Standards will be complemented and achieved in partnership with ADP commissioned services.
- 3.5. It was agreed in June 2022 at a meeting of South Lanarkshire Integration Joint Board (IJB) that updates on delivery and impact of the MAT Standards be routinely reported to future meetings, an update will be presented at the IJB meeting on 20 June 2023, this paper details the progress to allow Social Work Resources Committee members to be fully informed.

4. Progress Update

- 4.1. Local implementation of the MAT Standards is being delivered through the extension of an urgent response delivery model that has built upon a successful test-of-change project carried out by the HSCP's Community Addiction Recovery Service (CAReS) in the Clydesdale Locality. This test-of-change provided evidence that nursing staff with the appropriate level of skill and competence would be able to implement and deliver the standards with equity and with appropriate level of professional governance.
- 4.2. The local urgent response delivery model has the following components:
 - The option for individuals to start MAT from the same day of presentation.
 - Support to make an informed choice on what medication to be prescribed and the appropriate dose.
 - All at high risk of drug-related harm are proactively identified and offered support to commence or continue MAT.
 - Offer of evidence-based harm reduction at the point of MAT delivery.
 - Support to remain in treatment for as long as requested.

- 4.3. Currently the focus in South Lanarkshire is on standards 1-5, however the RAG status chart below outlines our progress in respect of each standard:

MAT STANDARD	RAG RATING	UPDATE JUNE 2023
1	AMBER	Standard processes in place for Urgent Response Team which went live on 1 st March 23. A robust data collection process is now in place.
2	PROVISIONAL GREEN	Process evidence is in place and choice is being delivered in all settings. Process is in place for gathering experiential evidence which has begun to be collected.
3	AMBER	Outreach services are available and pan-Lanarkshire documentation is currently being developed to capture all assertive outreach referrals pathways. Numerical and experiential evidence collection has commenced.
4	AMBER	Harm reduction standard operational procedure and training plan are in place and harm reduction training is being rolled out to each locality. Evidence reflects that harm reduction advice is consistently offered at the point of MAT delivery in all settings.
5	AMBER	There are several pathways in place to support people remaining in treatment for as long as required. Currently finalising information sharing protocol to enable data sharing across NHS Lanarkshire and commissioned services.
6	AMBER	A pan-Lanarkshire multi-agency steering group is in place and a training plan is under development in conjunction with the development of appropriate training resources.
7	RED	A Short Life Working Group will be set up to examine what shared care should mean in a Lanarkshire context; how we can ensure that primary care provide full support to patients on MAT, regardless of prescriber; and that communication pathways and data sharing is in place to allow seamless care for patients across primary care and addictions services
8	AMBER	A review of statutory addiction services is scheduled to enable a redesign of the service model. which in conjunction with commissioned service provision will ensure full implementation and sustainment of MAT Standards across South Lanarkshire. Development of data collection processes for all services is in progress to provide numerical and experiential evidence
9	AMBER	A steering group is established and joint working between mental health and addiction services (including commissioned services) is in place. A pan-Lanarkshire short life working group will be established to develop a protocol outlining the expectations for the holistic, joined up care of people with a co-occurring mental health condition and problem substance use.
10	AMBER	A pan-Lanarkshire multi-agency steering group is in place and a training and delivery plan will be developed to support implementation of trauma informed care across all services.

- 4.4. It is worth noting the MAT Standard 7 - *All people have the option of MAT shared with Primary Care* - will be particularly challenging as this model of shared care arrangements with GP Practices has not been the norm in Lanarkshire. A review of the Community Prescribing Service (CPS) which includes GP and Pharmacist Specialists in Addictions, is being planned in North Lanarkshire; and it is anticipated that a revised service model may contribute to achievement of this particular standard for Lanarkshire as a whole.
- 4.5. The clinical, care and professional governance for implementation of the MAT standards is via the appropriate existing governance structures and frameworks within South Lanarkshire HSCP and NHS Lanarkshire.
- 4.6. The extension of the local urgent response delivery model will facilitate a dynamic response to people who find it difficult to engage in care; and who are at increased risk due to transitions of care and/or challenged in access opportunities to treatment. Learning in regard to service user outcomes and service provision will inform future planning of service delivery and robustly evidence if these additional posts are critical (or not) to ongoing achievement of the MAT Standards. Review of service delivery will be objectively facilitated by people who have lived experience and will be reported into the local MAT Standard Implementation Steering Group by the South Lanarkshire ADP support team.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. All related posts are employed by NHS Lanarkshire. In addition to 3 whole time equivalent (wte) Trainee Advanced Nurse Practitioners currently in post, 3 wte Recovery Support Workers have been recruited and are expected to take up post by early July 2023. Their role will focus on delivering a wraparound service to each individual service user to support them through the initial stages of stabilisation and recovery and ensuring that a person-centred holistic approach to care and treatment is provided. Once individual service users have reached a position of stabilisation they will be connected to their locality addiction team and the recovery community in South Lanarkshire with the support of their Recovery Support Worker.
- 5.2. A further 3wte posts are/will be recruited to. These posts include a Project Lead, Experiential Lead and Administrative support.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Funding is being provided by the Scottish Government over a four-year period to support implementation of the MAT Standards within NHS Boards and HSCPs. This funding will sit within the respective ADPs and be administered by the ADP Finance Group.
- 6.2. At this stage, Scottish Government have not confirmed an on-going additional revenue funding allocation in support of the MAT Standards. A further challenge for ADPs then is to establish what the local approach should be after this four-year funding period; and to plan for an eventuality where no further national resourcing is forthcoming.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

- 7.1. There are no climate change, sustainability and environmental implications in terms of the information contained in this report.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. The developments described within this report contribute to the mitigation of a number of risks within the Social Work Resources Risk Register, notably:
- Demand pressures
 - Meeting Public Protection and Legislative Duties
- 8.2. There are no other issues associated with this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. CARES works closely with the South Lanarkshire ADP support team to ensure all service planning is informed by lived experience representation.
- 9.2. The local urgent response delivery model has been shaped by multiple representations of lived experience and recovery community colleagues who are active and contributing members of Lanarkshire Drug Death Prevention Steering Group and associated work streams; and the Lanarkshire Drug Death Review Group.
- 9.3. An ADP-planned service user and living experience consultation has commenced with the gathering of experiential data from individuals accessing the Urgent Response service. The planned recruitment of an Experiential Lead will widen the scope and breadth of this consultation and engagement process inclusive of vulnerable and hard to reach populations, families and carers. The findings of this consultation will inform any ongoing equality impact assessment that will be reported and responded to by MAT Standard Implementation Steering Group.

Professor Soumen Sengupta
Director, Health and Social Care

31 May 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- Accountable, Effective, Efficient and Transparent

Previous References

- ◆ None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ NRS, 2022, Drug Related Deaths in Scotland in 2021
<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//statistics/drug-related-deaths/21/drug-related-deaths-21-report.pdf>
- ◆ Scottish Government, 2019, Rights, Respect and Recovery: alcohol and drug treatment strategy. <https://www.gov.scot/publications/rights-respect-recovery/>
- ◆ Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/medication-assisted-treatment-mat-standards-scotland-access-choice-support/pages/3/>

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information, please contact: -

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Appendix 1: Summary of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards

- 1) All people accessing services have the option to start MAT from the same day of presentation.
- 2) All people are supported to make an informed choice on what medication to use for MAT, and the appropriate dose.
- 3) All people at high risk of drug-related harm are proactively identified and offered support to commence or continue MAT.
- 4) All people are offered evidence-based harm reduction at the point of MAT delivery.
- 5) All people will receive support to remain in treatment for as long as requested.
- 6) The system that provides MAT is psychologically informed (tier 1); routinely delivers evidence-based low intensity psychosocial interventions (tier 2); and supports individuals to grow social networks.
- 7) All people have the option of MAT shared with Primary Care.
- 8) All people have access to independent advocacy and support for housing, welfare and income needs.
- 9) All people with co-occurring drug use and mental health difficulties can receive mental health care at the point of MAT delivery.
- 10) All people receive trauma informed care.