OFFENDER INTERVENTIONS

‘DYFODOL’

HARM REDUCTION AND PREVENTION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROVISIONS
WHAT IS ‘DYFODOL’ / OFFENDER INTERVENTIONS?

• DYFODOL / Offender Interventions is a triage, assessment, diversion, treatment and support service for ‘offenders’ in contact with the criminal justice system.

• DYFODOL staff work in the Police custody suites, Courts, Prisons and within the community.

• DYFODOL operates across South Wales 7 unitary local authorities (with case management and clinical delivery sites funded by Welsh Government capital funding in Neath, Swansea, Cardiff, Bridgend, Pontypridd, Merthyr Tydfil and Barry) and the three South Wales health board areas, as well as the 4 state managed prisons in Swansea, Cardiff, Prescoed and USK, privately run Parc Prison in Bridgend and into England (outreach/female offenders) at HMP Eastwood Park as well as the four South Wales Police custody suites in Swansea, Cardiff, Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and three South Wales Courts.

• DYFODOL provides the drug and alcohol referral mechanisms to criminal justice and health partners out of the prison estate and into the community for all prisoners released in Wales and in need of support on release into Wales and the rest of the UK.

• DYFODOL has c.105 staff delivering the contract across South Wales and Welsh prison estate.

• DYFODOL uses one case management system ‘PALBASE’ in all activity areas.
WHY COMMISSION ‘DYFODOL’/OFFENDER INTERVENTIONS?

• South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner (Alun Michael) and ‘NOMS’ CYMRU recognised the value of the Drug Interventions Programme in controlling drug and alcohol related harm and wanted to maintain, improve and preserve existing systems in this aspect of offender and wider community health

• Recognition that by adding the missing elements – prisons, harm reduction, diversionary approaches and assessments of vulnerability in police custody – into a proposed seamless service we could significantly reduce potential harms to individuals and communities

• Service user and commissioning partner consultations identified the need to improve on the previously disjointed approaches

• Meet the strategic and operational needs of partners; Welsh Government Substance Misuse strategy, Police and Crime Plans, Reducing Reoffending Plan etc.

• Austerity – getting more for less through effective procurement and commissioning
HOW HAS ‘DYFODOL’ EMBRACED A HARM REDUCTION APPROACH?

• DYFODOL was designed and commissioned to divert individuals, where possible, given the nature and seriousness of the offence, away from the criminal justice system - and where not possible, to ensure the wellbeing and appropriate interventions are in place if an offender goes to Court and is sentenced to a custodial or community provision.

• A harm reduction approach is key to operational delivery; arrest referral in police custody no longer looks at just drugs and alcohol but also includes assessments of wider vulnerability.

• The specific needs of sex workers, 18-25s, over 40s, women, victims of domestic violence, individuals with learning difficulties and/or mental health issues are recognised and catered for within the contract and with partnership working, with the emphasis on diversion, where possible.

• A wraparound service, following contact and identification in police custody with rapid access prescribing and needles and injecting equipment (for high risk IV users) on demand on release.
ACTIVITY – KEY DATA

• 750 – 850 voluntary prison release referrals (25% female / 75% male)
• LIVE CASELOAD OF 650-750 at any time (care planned)
• C. 3,250 police cell custodial assessments every quarter / c. 13,000 per annum
• 1800 prisoner assessments in prison estates across Wales and in HMP Eastwood Park
• 500 – 550 individuals being prescribed substitute medication (mostly methadone and Subutex/Suboxone) ; 100% triage and clinically medicated within 10 days of community referrals or same day for prisoner releases medicated by prison healthcare
• Delivery of the treatment and support elements of mandated Court treatment orders, such as drug rehabilitation requirements
• Staff group includes clinicians, case managers
• 7 day a week, 365 days a year service, in police custody, with weekend prescribing and supervised consumption, if needed.
QUESTIONS?

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