Low Threshold - Harm Reduction Services within a Continuum of Care…

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Purpose

• To present an overview of recent developments at Ana Liffey with regard to Low Threshold- Harm Reduction work within a Continuum of Care.

• To consider the benefits of partnership working within a Continuum of Care.

• To consider future developments of partnership work within a Continuum of Care at Ana Liffey.
From August 2008 Ana Liffey has developed to include:

- **Expanded Day Service**
  - Nursing
  - Holistics

- **Assertive Outreach**
  - Dublin City BID Ltd

- **In-reach and day programmes**
  - Coolmine TC
  - Depaul Trust
  - Finglas Addiction Support Team
  - Ballyfermot STAR Project
  - Threshold Housing Unit
  - Primarycare Safetynet (GP)
Where we’re at now...

**Ana Liffey Services:**
- Drop-in Service
- Health Care Surgery
- Assertive Outreach
- Peer Support
- Pre-entry Groups
- Families and Children
- Case Management
- Prison Work
- Holistics
- Literacy
- SMS Text Service
- Van a Liffey
Continuum of care

With the client at the centre, people move seamlessly between services dependent upon their needs – entry can be at any point…

• Low Threshold/Harm Reduction Services (Outreach/Fixed site)
  – Stabilisation

• Detox

• Rehabilitation

• Aftercare
An agreed understanding...

Completion and signing of an In-reach Service Level Agreement.

– Aims and Objectives
– Outcomes and Measurements
– Service design
– Service Management
– Confidentiality and Information Sharing
Key elements of the In-reach SLA

• Induction into working in the drop in by Ana Liffey management.
• In-reach workers report to the manager on duty in Ana Liffey.
• Engage with clients in the drop in at Ana Liffey.
• When not in a formally arranged meeting with clients the in-reach staff will work to Ana Liffey's policy documents. Of particular importance are:
  – OP1 Service User Complaints Procedure
  – OP2 Service User Confidentiality Policy
  – HR1 Code of Practice
Pre-entry Group

- The Pre-entry Groups are co-facilitated by one member of Ana Liffey staff and one member of Coolmine staff. They provide a safe space for people to discuss and learn about treatment options. The groups are low threshold in nature - there is no onus on people to attend, and people do not have to be drug/alcohol free to attend. The groups are open-access, through the Ana Liffey drop-in or external referral.

- In the year October 2008 - October 2009, there have been:
  
  - 95 pre-entry groups at Ana Liffey, catering to 208 individuals. An average of 6.3 people attend each group.
  
  - In terms of inward referrals, most (64.4%) came from either Ana Liffey or Coolmine. However, 52 people (25%) report being referred to us from a total of 19 other services.
Pre-entry Group

- Of the 208 people who attended the pre-entry groups at Ana Liffey, a total of 74 people (35.6%) were referred onwards. Of these, 48 (64.8%) were referred to the Welcome Programme. 9 (12.1%) were referred to other Coolmine services, and the remainder were referred to other services, including:
  - Cuan Mhuire
  - Cuan Dara
  - Enfield
  - Dublin Simon Detox
  - PMVT Stabilisation
  - Arbour House (Cork)
  - Bruree
  - Sunflower Recycling

- Given that each group lasts an average of 2hrs, total staff input into the groups is 380 staff hours. Thus, there is an average of 1 onward referral per 5.1 staff hours invested in group work.
Future developments of partnership work at Ana Liffey

• Evaluation of each In-reach service.
• Development of existing partnerships to meet needs of clients.
  – Women's sexual health (Primary Care Safety Net)
• Development of new partnerships to meet needs.
  – Community Psychiatric Nurse (HSE)
  – Arrest Referral (Gardai)
Hyperlinks to resources on www.aldp.ie and www.partnershiptool.ie

• **In-reach Service Level Agreement** - The document which is signed by both parties once agreement is reached as to how in-reach services are provided at Ana Liffey.

• **Operational Policies:** - Downloads of Ana Liffey’s Code of Practice, Service User Complaints Procedure and Service User Confidentiality.

• **Partnership Evaluation Tool** - Institute of Public Health in Ireland has developed this tool to help multi-sectoral partnerships to monitor their development, to assess emerging benefits and to identify areas for further development.