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

Presentation to the INEF Conference, Killarney, Ireland.

5th November 2009

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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.

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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)

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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

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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

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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

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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

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Pre-entry Group [1]

- 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.

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Pre-entry Group [2]

- 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.

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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)

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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.

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