



Forward Leeds - COMHAD

The Partnership

FORWARD
LEEDS
INSPIRING CHANGE



Current picture

- 3600 registered service users. An 10% increase since the start of the pandemic. UK's second biggest integrated service.
- Lower unmet need (OHID measurement of impact) than national averages – Forward Leeds has a wider reach than most equivalent services.
- Above national average in all 4 substance groupings for successful exits.
- Service users have access to high quality mental health treatment within the Forward Leeds model.



Our Journey - COMHAD

- Recognition that mental health and substance misuse are inextricably linked. DCB – this is a key highlighted issue.
- Access to mental health services is difficult and at times obstructive for service users with a substance use support need.
- Service user feedback prelaunch – requesting increased mental health support.
- Reduces stigma attached to substance use and mental health. This is still a significant issue in wider health care.
- Lack of expertise in substance use in mental health services.

The numbers

- 350 Service users accessing the COMHAD element of the service at any one time.
- 200 new treatment starts per year.
- 40 service users supported through the pregnancy pathway each year.
- 80 referrals (YTD) for suicidality assessment for COMHAD to undertake.

The impact.

- Specialist care for service users with mental health and addiction support needs.
- Part of the integrated service – Service users are not referred around the city and ‘bounced between services’
- Recognition of addiction as a health care need (DCB).
- Reduces the impact on CMHT.
- Evidenced based interventions delivered by trained/qualified specialists.
- Part of specialist trust – LYPFT – wider integrated care.
- Voluntary sector and NHS operating together focusing on specialist areas of care.
- Support for ‘mainstream’ staff when they are supporting services users who have multiple support needs and low level mental health support needs.



The staff

- Consultant psychiatrists.
- Psychologist.
- Mental health nurses.
- Trauma informed street outreach team.
- Specialist addiction midwives.

- **These staff work solely in the Forward Leeds service across the city with no postcode 'lottery'.**

Myth busting.

- We see large successes and people do recover.
- Often service users are self medicating due to the early emergence of a mental health condition.
- Lack of appropriate diagnosis means service users have been bounced around a system and not received the most appropriate care.
- Significant amount of service users have experienced severe trauma at some stage.
- People do not make a 'choice' to become a 'drug addict'.



Challenges

- Stigma in wider healthcare services.
- Mental health services are resistant to take referrals from Forward Leeds.
- Forward Leeds often viewed as the service to support all service users experiencing a substance use and mental health condition in Leeds.
- Capacity is also at maximum so occasionally service has waiting lists.
- Difficult to recruit due to the speciality involved and required.

The future – A new 10 year strategy.



- We have a new 10-year strategy in substance use. From **Harm to Hope**.
- Increased funding has been recommended and agreed. £780m over 3 years.
- Increased focus on reducing harm and reducing drug related deaths.
- Increased focus on access to high quality mental health treatment.
- Rebuilding the professional workforce.

Thank You.



• Questions?