

THE ADAPTATION OF SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF GLASGOW'S HOMELESS/INJECTING POPULATION – WITH A FOCUS ON FEMALE STREET SEX WORKERS AND THOSE AFFECTED BY THE HIV OUTBREAK

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- ▶ Based on IEP data, estimates of 400-600 PWID injecting publically around Glasgow City Centre
- ▶ NESI data shows 70/30 male/female split
- ▶ In 2017/18, 77% injecting cocaine – a significant rise on previous years
- ▶ Consistently high HCV rates indicate sharing of injecting equipment despite being an area which supplies around 1 million needles and syringes per year

PWID IN GLASGOW

- ▶ Around 180-200 female injecting drug users
- ▶ Funding drug use through prostitution (transactional sex), begging and shoplifting
- ▶ Particularly vulnerable to exploitation and harm
- ▶ Routes out of Prostitution currently working with around 100 women – all street based sex workers

WOMEN IN PROSTITUTION

- ▶ Glasgow is experiencing an outbreak of HIV among PWID
- ▶ In 2015, a steep rise in HIV was noted among PWID and almost all were a rarely observed HIV subtype C. Phylogenetic analysis revealed that this strain has not been identified outside of Scotland and that transmission is occurring rapidly
- ▶ Currently 175 diagnoses of HIV in this group, 10 so far in 2020
- ▶ Cocaine injecting and homelessness in the 6 months prior to diagnosis are major factors
- ▶ Cocaine has a short half life which increases the frequency of injecting episodes while decreasing the likelihood of using clean injecting equipment each time
- ▶ Women seem disproportionately affected and are 3-4 times more likely to acquire HIV (NESI)

HIV OUTBREAK

- ▶ Sandyford provides Sexual and Reproductive Health services across 15 sites in Glasgow
- ▶ All appointment based with a mix of Urgent and Routine appointments available
- ▶ Traditional service model not suitable for the Homeless population
 - ▶ No service within Glasgow City Centre
 - ▶ Telephone based appointment system

SANDYFORD



- ▶ Established to carry out contact tracing in HIV outbreak.
- ▶ HIV service had moved to City Centre but this meant clear pathway to Sexual Health was lost.
- ▶ Evolved to cover all Sexual and Reproductive health needs at the heart of the homeless community
- ▶ Based within the Homeless Addiction Team (HAT) in Glasgow City Centre
- ▶ Women noted to be particularly vulnerable in the clinic with complex needs
- ▶ Move to establish a 'Women Only' day at the HAT

SANDYFORD SEXUAL HEALTH OUTREACH TEAM

- ▶ Weekly HIV clinic within Homeless Addiction Team
 - ▶ Contact Tracing
 - ▶ HIV testing and PrEP for partners of HIV+ clients
 - ▶ Annual smears for HIV+ women
 - ▶ Sexual Health Screening
 - ▶ Contraception including pre HCV treatment
 - ▶ Emotional support

SANDYFORD SEXUAL HEALTH OUTREACH TEAM

- ▶ Started 1st July 2019 to provide a safer space for women following staff observations of vulnerability within the waiting area
- ▶ Other services - ORT prescribing, wound care, dietician
- ▶ Immediate increase in weekly engagement for ORT
- ▶ Sexual health nurses providing STI/BBV testing, contraception, smear testing and support for those involved in prostitution or previous childhood sexual trauma
- ▶ GUM and SRH consultant support
- ▶ PrEP
- ▶ Colposcopy/TOP/Pregnancy referral
- ▶ Also G3 clinic at Sandyford Central and AHBT

WOMENS CLINIC

- ▶ 1st July – 31st December 2018
 - ▶ 19 individual women seen by sexual health nurse at HAT (before full outreach service established)
- ▶ 1st July – 31st December 2019
 - ▶ 71 individual women seen with 31 women seen on more than 1 occasion
 - ▶ 27 – contraception
 - ▶ 16 – smear tests
 - ▶ 28 – STI testing
 - ▶ 9 – PrEP
 - ▶ 34 – BBV tests
- ▶ ~75 women open to HAT during these time periods

WOMENS CLINIC

- ▶ Challenges:
 - ▶ Viewing their womens health as a priority
 - ▶ Engaging with other services – usually in a rush to leave
 - ▶ Previous sexual trauma – MBB
 - ▶ No prior engagement with sexual health services so unsure what to expect
 - ▶ No availability in unsocial hours – how to engage with those not open to Addiction services?
 - ▶ Mental health – trauma of losing children and lack of accessible counselling services
- ▶ But.....
 - ▶ Building relationships with increasing levels of engagement
 - ▶ Increase in all aspects of SRH
 - ▶ Move to new premises which will be exclusively for women
 - ▶ Expand to cover community addiction teams?

WOMENS CLINIC

- ▶ Comments/Questions?
- ▶ Suggestions welcome!
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THANK YOU

