

Practice Improvement Snapshot

Issue: October 2025



ADPH
South West

The aim of the Snapshot is to provide a monthly Practice Improvement (PI) update to DsPH and their public health teams. The Snapshot is produced and managed by Jodie Demmery (SW PI co-ordinator) and Kate Blackburn (SW PI lead). If you have something that you would like included for the next issue, or any questions on what is featured in this issue, please get in touch (Jodie.Demmery@southglos.gov.uk).

Public Health Intelligence

Priority Lead: Siobhan Farmer (DPH Gloucestershire)

Deputy Lead: Sarah Weld (DPH South Gloucestershire)

Project Support: Simon Chant (Consultant in Public Health) & Simon Packer (Public Health Registrar)

As part of the South West Practice Improvement Programme, this priority area is focused on exploring how public health teams support the local system and gaining a better understanding on the public and population health intelligence functions in local authorities. The project also aims to strengthen alignment with regional teams and build a shared evidence base of “what good looks like” through best practice examples.

Survey Success



A regional survey was completed by all South West local authorities, achieving a 100% response rate. The results were analysed and presented back to Directors of Public Health and intelligence leads/consultants during a regional workshop.

Workshop Highlights

The workshop, jointly led by Simon Chant and Simon Packer, through synthesised qualitative and quantitative data explored:



- Team structures and functions
- Relationships within and across systems
- Access to and use of data

Key findings



- The South West region has strong and skilled PHI teams and individuals.
- High demand for PHI services is a challenge for the relatively small workforce.
- Significant variation in team size, job roles, and data access
- Strong leadership and analytical capability across the region
- Opportunities to improve co-production, data architecture, and consistency

The session included rich discussion on the benefits and challenges of current arrangements, with a focus on shaping next steps.



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Showcasing Innovation

Each local authority has contributed a case study highlighting innovative and impactful public health intelligence work. These examples will help build a regional picture of best practice.

Next Steps



- Collate feedback and discussion points from the workshop to inform future recommendations
- Produce local authority-specific reports benchmarking responses
- Develop a final regional report, with potential for ICB cluster-specific insights
- Host a dedicated SWINPHO workshop with the public health analytical community to co-develop further actions and solutions

Substance Use

Priority Lead: Christina Gray (DPH Bristol)

Deputy Lead: Steve Maddern (DPH Plymouth)

Upcoming Seminar Announcement: Substance Use Seminar – Inpatient Detox: What Does Good Look Like?

We're pleased to announce that plans are now in place for a Substance Use Seminar scheduled for:

Date: Thursday, 28th November

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location: MS Teams

Seminar Focus: Inpatient Detox – What Does Good Look Like?

This session will address Practice Improvement Project Objective 1: *Assess and address optimum Tier 4 detox service in the South West following the closure of The Acer Unit.*

Seminar Objectives:

- Presentation of findings from the report *“Alcohol and Substance Detoxification Needs Assessment for the South West”* by Dr Kenzie Nicks, Public Health Registrar, Bristol City Council.
- Reflection on the impact of the Acer Unit closure
- Exploration of: What Does Good Look Like for In-patient Detox in the South West Region?
- Group discussion & response summary: Attendees will have the opportunity to reflect on the evidence presented, share insights, and help shape next steps.

This seminar is a key opportunity to engage with current evidence, collaborate across services, and contribute to the development of improved detox pathways in the South West.

We encourage all relevant substance use LA leads and DsPH to attend and participate in this important conversation.

