

Wakefield and Turning Point

With the additional funding Wakefield has received as an “ADDER Accelerator” site, Turning Point appointed an additional housing outreach worker who was keen to build on and further develop relationships with local housing providers. Turning Point were approached by a one particular local housing provider to deliver naloxone training to their staff. The housing provider provides direct access to housing and support for families and single males and females across the region. Their properties range from three-to nine-bedroom shared homes for single males and females and, in the Wakefield district, family accommodation. This was an excellent opportunity to enhance the relationship and, with this aim, the housing outreach worker teamed up with Turning Point Wakefield’s local naloxone trainer and visited the housing provider’s largest site to deliver a training session.

During the first part of the session, staff were given the opportunity to share their experiences of dealing with individuals who had had an overdose and to discuss their knowledge of naloxone. Whilst it became apparent that the staff had shared knowledge on both subjects, they did not have access to naloxone kits on site. Upon completion of opioid overdose awareness training, the Turning Point team went on to demonstrate the correct procedure for administration of naloxone to an individual. It was also explained to the staff members that administering naloxone to a client overdosing from a non-opioid substance would not be detrimental to their health. At the end of the training session, the staff were provided with three naloxone kits and an agreement was made to deliver training to another site in the district.

Regarding barriers and challenges in Wakefield, Turning Point are commissioned to deliver a drugs and alcohol prevention treatment and recovery service which includes provision of naloxone to staff, services users and staff at identified high-risk sites. Their feedback is that:

There are no issues in relation to the purchasing of naloxone and stock levels are fine. We readjust budget when demand increases. Pharmacies have not had any issue with their ordering either and we have four community pharmacies contracted to offer a needle syringe programme as well as Take Home Naloxone (THN). We have really good uptake of THN kits within Wakefield City Centre Pharmacy and are working with pharmacy staff at three other sites in the district to see how we can increase the number of kits issued, which is currently disproportionate. Within the treatment service, we have good staff buy-in with every staff member talking about naloxone at every contact, we have introduced naloxone as an “opt out” rather than “opt in” and, in the height of the pandemic, we posted a high proportion of kits to those having to self-isolate. We are finding service users are more open to carrying and accepting kits now than ever before.