

North East Lincolnshire Council and We Are With You Peer 2 Peer Naloxone Project

Summary

North East Lincolnshire Council with our providers, We Are With You, planned to increase provision via peer-to-peer distribution, facilitated by volunteer and recovery champions in services and the recovery community; pharmacy distribution of naloxone; training and support for housing and support providers to carry and administer naloxone; and an amnesty approach in the wider region with support from local media and Humberside Police. We are working alongside George Charlton -GC Training and Consultancy services to assist our development and implementation of a peer-to-peer naloxone distribution project within our Grimsby service.

Monitoring

We are monitoring who has issued kits and who the kits are issued to.

Training

The peer-to-peer project training (completed by six peers) included how to administer and train others in the use of naloxone, overdose awareness, basic life support, consent and confidentiality and how to complete documents as required for distribution of naloxone. In turn, they have trained 49 individuals in overdose awareness and the use of naloxone and issued 49 kits.

For local pharmacies, one training session has so far been delivered (at the time of writing), with another training session is planned for January 2022. Two pharmacies requested face-to-face training sessions.

Outcomes

The peer-to-peer project has issued 49 kits to members of the local community in just four weeks, compared with 12 kits issued by our main service in the same time period.

Other outcomes include:

- The establishment of a steering group
- Staff from partner agencies are carrying naloxone kits
- Reaching members of the public who would otherwise not know about naloxone.

Feedback from one of the peers:

“I couldn’t believe people that don’t use (heroin) were happy to talk to us and took kits.”

- Four local pharmacies in North East Lincolnshire now carry emergency naloxone kits – in Laceby, Healing, Cleethorpes and Grimsby.
- Local authority commissioners have committed to supporting the project and, as part of the steering group, can see the real impact of the project, both in distribution, and in the health and wellbeing benefits the group is having for our peers.
- Our peers are reporting reduced substance use since being part of the project. One member of the team was street homeless at the start of the project – he is now engaging in our services, stopping at the night shelter (Harbour Place) and hoping to get housing. He is reporting significant reduction in his substance use.

Successes

- More naloxone kits in the community
- Personal outcomes for the peers, who are reporting increased confidence, reduced substance use, sense of purpose, more self-esteem and have real passion for the project.

“I feel so good knowing we are saving lives.”

- Peers are able to use their lived experience to engage others.

Challenges

There have been no major challenges with this element of the U13 funding – there is still some work to be done with the police, who are part of the steering group, to have the information about the project disseminated across all the local policing teams – this is being looked at by the Divisional Commander.

Next Steps

The peers will be reaching more partner agencies, targeting areas locally where we know there are at-risk drug users who may need kits. There is also intention to work within pharmacies to distribute naloxone kits to those accessing pharmacies but who may be reluctant to come into the service. Further training to pharmacies will also follow.

What could other commissioners/providers learn from your experience?

By using a consultant specialist, the project has been able to mobilise and deliver our intended objectives immediately on receiving our funding allocation. The restrictions of staff recruitment were greatly reduced.