

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and CGL: Police - Nasal Naloxone

Summary

For a number of years, we discussed front line police officers carrying naloxone kits across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The constabulary are key partners in our countywide harm reduction forum. However, whilst the kits were only available in an injectable format the police federation would not support the project.

When the nasal format of naloxone 'Nyxoid' became available discussions re-started with constabulary colleagues which accelerated when the West Midlands nasal naloxone pilot went live in 2019. We connected with the West Midlands project team 6 months into their pilot and they shared planning and learning to date. We gained support from key strategic constabulary colleagues, the OPCC and the constabulary drug and alcohol partnership officer started internal discussions with the federation and Change Board.

Then covid hit...

The project got back on track with first project mtg in June 2020 which scoped the pilot project and identified 2 areas in the county for roll out 'Cambridge City' and 'Peterborough' identified due to DRD national and local surveillance data. Initially the group considered a rural vs urban area for roll out but the data and operational practicality meant that both city locations were selected.

Roles and responsibilities were defined, budgets/costs agreed, project implementation plan developed and internal governance within the constabulary identified. Clinical lead who sits on the constabulary clinical governance BCH has been incredibly supportive (experience in ED/MAGPAS)

Consultation with Police officers- Officers not forced to carry kits its remains voluntary but all officers readily agreed

In summary Roles-responsibilities

- Public health commissioner-chaired project meetings, joint coordinated project with police colleague, funded kits
- CGL-ordered and provided Nyxoid kits and training to officers (ongoing replacements).
- National CGL pharmacist provided advice, guidance and shared documentation that was developed for West Midlands Project (also CGL involvement)
- Constabulary won hearts and minds of officers and tirelessly internally drove the project forward
- Police federation provided support for the project and asked critical questions.
- CCG Meds optimisation-ensured that local formulary reflected pilot project- Nyxoid kits carried by officers
- EEAST (Ambulance) agreed local protocol- respond in line with current national standards and calls would not be downgraded if officers on scene administering naloxone, also facilitate disposal of used kits
- SU network-video clips of users sharing their experience of naloxone administration which formed part of the police training
- Comms teams across key orgs-press release

Due to the ongoing covid pandemic, CGL had to train the police officers via Teams

All officers trained and issued kits by the end of April 2021.

In total approx 55 officers are involved in the pilot and carry kits

All officers carry small pocket size cards alongside 2 nasal kits. The cards are distributed to the patient after administration and let them know that nyxoid had been administered after a suspected overdose and signposting information for local services.

Partnership

First Project group in June 2020, positive support for the project and strong attendance (Public Health, OPCC, Constabulary, CGL, CCG Meds management, LPC, Service user rep, Ambulance service (EEAST)), regular attendance and support from partners throughout the planning process.

Governance

Countywide Harm reduction group/strategic Drug and Alcohol Board Constabulary-BCH clinical governance group

Documentation

- MOU developed, formalised roles/responsibilities and processes
- Risk assessment

Challenges

- Covid
- How the kits are to be carried, leather belts but not all officers had the same leather pouches so had to order additional uniform
- officers regularly change roles-constant training of new starters
- Lots of kits-replacements
- Ongoing concerns voiced by the police federation (particularly after universal grant released and more interest nationally)

Achievements

24 hours after the pilot went live, a police officer responded to an overdose incident, administered naloxone and a life was saved.

To date, 4 incidents where Nyxoid has been administered (over 8 month period), no deaths.

Out of 4 incidents, 1 opioid overdose, other incidents all involved drugs but likely to be poly drug use as administration of Nyxoid had some benefit but not as acute as would expect in a primary opioid overdose.

Comms

Positive comms re launch of the project at the same time as first administration

Costs

- Nyxoid kits x75 (including allocation for replacements) £2,600
- Pocket size Cards £100
- Training including as part of CGL treatment contract

Ongoing monitoring / review

- No significant issues encountered, reminder to officers to safely dispose of kits
- Working with EEAST re response times, due to covid pressures on the ambulance service, delays in attendance in line with all calls, this has raised issue re officers conveying to hospital

Next steps

- To embed as normal business and extend to all front line officers across the whole county
- To consider extension to other teams within the constabulary
- Looking at Mental health capacity act and detention to prevent harm after administration

What could other commissioners / providers learn from your experience?

Working in Partnership, a key driver within the constabulary and police federation and clinical support

