

## Forward Leeds and Leeds City Council

In 2017, Forward Leeds (the commissioned drug and alcohol treatment service) worked with the Public Health Team at Leeds City Council to develop a take-home naloxone service. The Council funds a full-time Naloxone Lead who is part of the Harm Reduction Team in Forward Leeds. The Harm Reduction Team have taken a lead in championing the supply of naloxone, as well as providing training on its administration and overdose awareness. Training is provided to service users, professionals, family and friends. The programme has been delivered in 3 stages:

- Stage 1: Forward Leeds staff were trained in how to administer naloxone and kits were distributed to all clients who inject drugs.
- Stage 2: The service was rolled out to other LCC commissioned services supporting people who may not be in structured treatment e.g. street outreach teams supporting people who are rough sleeping, supported housing services, sex worker services.
- Stage 3: Wider non-commissioned services included in the programme, e.g. approved bail and probation hostels, a range of street based support workers, officers in custody suites.

The service has been a crucial part of the city's response to the emergency accommodation offer during COVID-19 – responding quickly to make sure that kits were distributed to the people staying in the emergency hotels and that all support staff were trained and had access to a kit.

A [YouTube video](#) has been produced by Forward Leeds to demonstrate how to use the kits.

To date over 2,000 new kits have been distributed (and replaced as necessary) and over 300 staff from a range of services have been trained (and received refresher training as needed). In the past year, 46 kits have been used in a situation which has resulted in a life probably being saved.

The take-home naloxone service is now well into Stage 3 and the Naloxone Lead continues to look for other opportunities to widen the reach of the programme. This includes joining the steering group for the roll-out of peer-to-peer naloxone distribution which is currently being piloted in the North East. The lessons learned in this roll-out will be used with the aim of implementing a similar scheme in Leeds. This could widen the reach to those not in contact with services and encourage engagement in support services.