

Naloxone - June 2022

Aspire – Doncaster Drug & Alcohol Services, partnership between Rdash and ADS

Naloxone has been available from Aspire for several years, however with the additional universal funding available in 21/22 we were able to increase this outreach offer and provision of this. One of the specific areas we focused on was those clients involved in the criminal Justice setting, given this high-risk client group often due to lowered tolerance post custody/prison as well as risky behaviours the need for easy access is therefore vital. Therefore, we have tried to ensure that Naloxone is available at every touch point within the Criminal Justice system.

We started on arrest and have worked in partnership with Doncaster Police Custody suite, to aim to provide naloxone on release from the custody suite, especially when drug use had been identified or if drug paraphernalia was confiscated on arrest. Local operational procedures have been written and agreed by the Partnership, these are now just waiting to be signed off by the police who are eager for this to commence. Naloxone will be offered by the drug workers based within the custody suite as a matter of course, training will be provided in custody and then a naloxone kit will be placed into the persons property for release along with other harm reduction information.

Aspire have also been involved with the new Departure lounge at HMP Doncaster where all releases are encouraged to attend and have access to the many services available to offer support on release (bit like a one stop shop). Aspire have liaised with NACRO so that Aspire workers are present daily at the departure lounge where Naloxone is handed out to those who require it routinely now.

The Aspire Criminal Justice team are now co-located with Probation, this was a challenge at first due to COVID restrictions but after various risk assessments and reduced measures, Aspire staff are based at the probation office daily. Again, staff are able to issue naloxone.

Training has also taken place with one of the homeless providers who were experiencing a level of accidental overdose within their HMO (House in Multiple Occupation) in Doncaster, so all staff are now able to administer naloxone and have a supply on the premises if required. Further work has been explored about providing naloxone kits directly to residents so they can also have a personal supply, however due to legal/insurance reasons this is not yet possible, but any residents are able to access Aspire's needle exchange or see their keyworker for a naloxone kit. Other housing providers in the Doncaster area have also received training and kits from Aspire to ensure there is easy access, this also includes one of the local bail hostels.

There is ongoing work with the local hospital (who are a different NHS trust) to look at the availability of Naloxone kits and how Aspire can support staff to provide this for those patients on discharge from Hospital especially where people may have presented due to overdose

All Aspire staff are trained and have easy access in all clinical room to naloxone kits, this also includes our outreach team who accompany the local homeless service who do early morning town centre walks liaising with those who may not be accessing Aspire services.