

Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (GMMH)

Addictions Division

Achieve Bury, Bolton, Salford, and Trafford (BBST) Treatment and Recovery Services

GMMH Achieve BBST services set up an innovative Peer to Peer 'Take Home Naloxone' Training and Supply Programme during the early part of 2022; initially across Bury and Bolton, with Salford and Trafford joining shortly after. The aim of the project is to widen the supply of Naloxone ensuring that it reaches those who need it most. Alongside George Charlton* and his alter-ego 'Naloxone Man,' we worked together to recruit, train, and support the development of peers and people who use drugs, to enable them to work across their own networks supplying Naloxone and overdose awareness training, and routes into treatment. Using the unique and vast experiences of existing service users and those with lived and living experience of addiction, we can take positive steps towards engaging and supporting people who use drugs; especially those who are deemed as being hidden populations or treatment naïve. The project peers have local knowledge of the areas they live in and the drug using populations that require supply; this supports the aim of lowering the risk of drug related deaths.

Following their two-day training, the peers initially trained and supplied GMMH colleagues, then service users on site, before 'hitting the streets' first with a GMMH member of staff, and then in pairs. Kits issued are recorded daily, with an oversight by the lead nurse. Each pair 'checks-in' with their named GMMH staff member prior to leaving the service for the day.

The peers were actively involved in the development of the peer led Naloxone Steering Group, which is the governance structure of the project. The group is co-chaired by the peers and consists of designated GMMH staff from each area, plus representatives from Greater Manchester Police and local authority commissioners. The steering group meets quarterly to feedback and support future development initiatives.

The project sits outside of volunteering and paid service user engagement policies, and therefore we applied some discretion and purposeful thinking to ensure the peers were embedded within each service base with allocated space to collect and return kit and project ID badges that did not misrepresent as a GMMH member of staff or a recruited volunteer. Each group chose their own team's name, and designed t-shirts and hoodies which not only carried the group name, but the Trust logo and Achieve shooting star icon.

The supply of basic telephony and laptops required the development of a disclaimer and usage protocol to meet Information Governance requirements. Additionally, any potential out of pocket expenses are reimbursed in cash, on trust, at a flat rate of £10.00 per four-hour operation. There were some early interpersonal behaviours that were swiftly managed locally with the implementation of a peer and GMMH staff 'pre-meet' prior to the steering group.

The four BBST projects have gained media attention with ITV Granada Reports featuring Bolton and Bury, and Salford and Trafford being interviewed on BBC Radio Manchester. Future development for the peer led groups includes the offer of quarterly facilitated workshops relating to subjects of their choice; to be hosted at a different base/service each time to build a BBST cohort of peers forming a BBST 'supergroup', social media guidance and training, and discussions about training in BBV dry blood spot testing to support the Trust's Hepatitis C micro-elimination campaign.

Authored by Sarah-Jane Truman 6th June 2022