



**HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL  
25 JULY 2005**

**Agenda  
Item No.**

**6a**

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES – FOLLOW UP BRIEFING REPORT TO THE  
DELIVERY & IMPROVEMENT STATEMENT REPORT, SPRING 2005  
PRESENTED TO THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL on 21/6/05**

**Ward(s):** All

**Portfolios:** Cllr A Paul – Health & Social Care

**Background:**

Following the presentation of a report about the Delivery & Improvement Statement, Spring 2005, to the Health & Social Care Scrutiny Panel on 21/6/05, a request was made to submit a briefing report to clarify the following statement in that report:

“Drug and Alcohol Misuse – waiting times for all modalities for 3 of the 4 quarters in 2004/05 were within national recommended targets; the number engaged in treatment exceeded the 10% target increase.”

**Briefing Report on Drug Treatment Waiting Times**

The effectiveness of drug treatment services can be judged by the proportion of users accessing the service compared with the estimated number of drug users in the population & the number of people in treatment retained for twelve weeks or more. This is considered to be an optimum length of time for successful treatment. Successful treatment can be retention in services as a stable user on reducing medication, or a successful completion where the person either no longer uses illegal drugs or needs substitute prescribing.

Five years ago Walsall had less than a third of the estimated drug using population in contact with services but this figure for last year had risen to 43%. The target is to achieve a minimum of 60% in contact with services by 2007 - 2008.

The minimum target for retention in services is set at 45% for 2005 - 2006 & in 2004 -2005 we managed to achieve 73% of people in contact with the service for more than twelve weeks, which would greatly increase the chances of a successful outcome for these people.

The length of time that a person has to wait for various aspects of treatment is used as a measure of the efficiency of the treatment service. Walsall used to have very long waiting times for initial appointments with Lantern House & long waits to see a prescribing physician after the initial assessment (from 18 months to 2 years). The government set targets for a range of treatment services & Walsall was assessed as having a ‘green light’ on achieving these waiting time targets last year. The majority of people are offered an initial assessment within three weeks & people involved with the criminal justice system (Drug Intervention Programme) are usually seen within 3 - 5 days, depending on their need.

We have recently increased the number of GPs who are able to prescribe for drug users from 5 to 25. This means that more drug users will be able to visit a local GP to pick up their scripts when they have been stabilised at Lantern House, & they can visit a local pharmacist to be supervised whilst they consume their medication.

This improvement means that people can receive the treatment they need locally, & supervised consumption means less 'leakage' of prescription drugs on the streets.

**Signed:** .



**Executive Director:** Dave Martin

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