

## The UK Models of care for treatment of adult drug misusers

The four-tiered approach

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## Models of Care

- Provides the framework required to achieve equity, parity and consistency in the commissioning and provision of substance misuse treatment and care in England.
- Advocates a systems approach to meeting the multiple needs of drug and alcohol misusers.
- Reflects professional consensus of 'what works best' for drug misusers, resulting from an extensive consultative process.
- Based upon current evidence, guidance, quality standards and good practice in drug treatment in England.

## The Four-tiered framework for commissioning drug treatment

- To provide a conceptual framework and be applied to local areas with flexibility.
- has enabled a better articulation of provision of treatment
- It is not a rigid blueprint for provision
- The tiers refer to the level of the interventions provided and do not refer to the provider organisations

## Definition of Treatment

- *This term describes a range of interventions that are intended to remedy an identified drug-related problem or condition relating to a person's physical, psychological or social (including legal) well-being.*
- *Structured drug treatment follows assessment and is delivered according to a care plan, with clear goals, which is regularly reviewed with the client. It may comprise a number of concurrent or sequential treatment interventions.*

Good quality treatment is highly effective in reducing:

- Illegal drug misuse
- Improving the health of drug misusers,
- Reducing drug related offending,
- Reducing the risk of death due to overdose,
- Reducing the risk of death due to infections, and
- Improving social functioning

**Tier 1 Interventions:  
Drug-related information and advice,  
screening and referral by generic services**

- Include provision of drug-related information and advice, screening and referral to specialised drug treatment
- In the context of general healthcare settings, or social care, education or criminal justice settings (e.g. probation, courts, prison reception) where the main focus is not drug treatment
- Staff require competence to screen and identify drug misuse and refer to local specialized drug treatment systems

**Tier 2 interventions  
Open access, non-care-planned  
drug-specific interventions**

- Provision of drug-related information and advice, triage assessment, referral to structured drug treatment, brief psychosocial interventions, harm reduction interventions (including needle exchange) and aftercare
- May be delivered separately from Tier 3 but will often also be delivered with Tier 3 interventions, through outreach, in pharmacy settings, criminal justice settings, or in prison
- Require competent drug and alcohol specialist workers

**Tier 3 interventions:  
Structured, care-planned drug treatment**

- Provision of community-based specialised drug assessment and co-ordinated care-planned treatment and drug specialist liaison
- Interventions include:**
- Comprehensive drug misuse assessment
  - Care-planning, coordination and review for all in structured treatment
  - Community care assessment
  - Harm reduction activities integral to care-planned treatment

Tier 3 interventions(continued):  
Structured, care-planned drug treatment

- A range of prescribing interventions
- A range of structured evidence-based psychosocial interventions
- Structured day programmes and care-planned day care
- Liaison services fro acute medical and psychiatric health services
- Liaison services for care services
- A range of the above interventions for drug misusing offenders

Tier 3 interventions:  
Structured, care-planned drug treatment

Settings: normally delivered in specialised drug treatment services with their own premises in the community or hospital sites

- May based in primary setting or in prison
- Require competent drug and alcohol specialised practitioners and medical staff will require different levels of competence

Tier 4 interventions:  
Drug specialist inpatient treatment and residential rehabilitation

Provision of residential specialised drug treatment, which is care planned and care coordinated to ensure continuity of care and aftercare.

Tier 4 interventions include:

- Inpatient specialist drug and alcohol assessment, stabilisation, and detoxification/assisted withdrawal services
- A range of drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation units
- A range of half way houses
- Residential drug and alcohol crisis intervention units
- Inpatient detoxification/assisted withdrawal provision

Tier 4 interventions (continued):  
Drug specialist inpatient treatment and residential rehabilitation

- Provision for special groups for which a need is identified (e.g. drug-using pregnant women)
- A range of the above interventions for drug-misusing offenders

Ideal settings: specialised dedicated inpatient or residential substance misuse units or wards

Continuity of care is essential for preserving gains achieved in residential treatments.

Can be found within prisons, specialist detoxification units, therapeutic communities and some 12-Step programmes

Require normally medical staff with specialised substance misuse competency

All staff working in all residential setting sare advised to demonstrate specific competence level

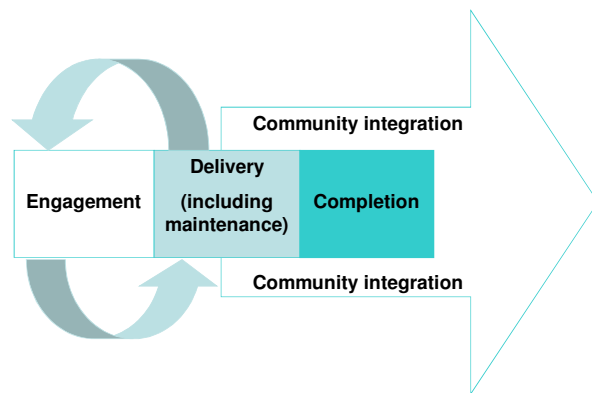
### Points to note:

- Providers spanning tiers – Many community based specialised providers provide a range of interventions spanning Tier 2 and Tier 3.
- Tier 1 service may not be generic, Tier 4b in 2002 redesignated as Tier 1.
- Tier 2 interventions should include :
  - Interventions to engage people to drug treatment
  - Interventions to support people prior to structured treatment
  - Interventions to help retain people in the treatment system
  - A range of drug misuse harm reduction interventions
  - Interventions to support active drug users who may not want or need intensive structured drug treatment at that point in their live.

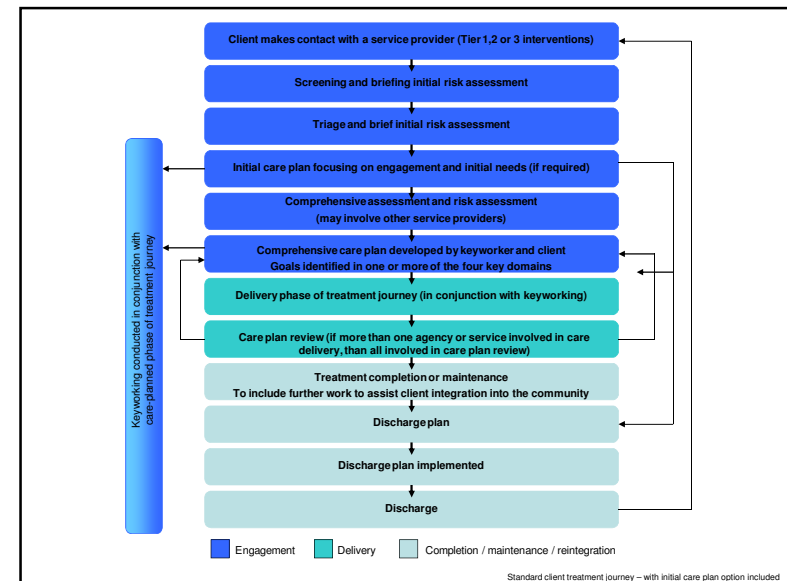
### Points to note:

- Tier 2 interventions do not focus only on those who are still actively using illegal drugs, but also to those who are drug-free
- Tier 2 interventions can be a component of aftercare
- Tier 2 vs Tier 3 interventions may be very similar and difficult to decide. The main difference between the two is that Tier 3 refers to the provision of care-planned interventions that meet the threshold for structured drug treatment, determined following comprehensive assessment.
- All substitute prescribing interventions are Tier 3

### The Client's journey



Models of care for treatment of adult drug misusers : Update 2006



Standard client treatment journey – with initial care plan option included

## Various emphases

- Assessment – screening, triage, initial care plan, comprehensive, risk
- Various competence level required for workers
- Care planning
- Keyworking
- Integrated care pathways
- Quality criteria and improvement reviews
- Performance monitoring and management

Drug treatment interventions are part of a local treatment system which include:

- Advice and information
- Harm reduction interventions
- Community prescribing interventions
- Structured day programmes
- Structured psychosocial interventions
- Other structured treatment
- Inpatient drug treatment
- Residential rehabilitation
- Aftercare

## Source:

*National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse(2006), Models of care of treatment of adult drug misusers, update 2006*

## Comments on the proposed Tiered Approach

- Good initiative
- Unclear objectives
- Unclear definitions which lead to inclusion of unclassified services, failing to include existing interventions, failing to note the difference between compulsory and voluntary services, putting rehabilitation service into the highest tier, and focusing on the youth sometimes
- Failing to consult the key players
- Failing to set a clear consultation plan

## Suggested Approach

1. Generic service which drug abusers gain access
2. Specialised non-residential counseling/treatment
3. Residential treatment
- 4(R). Rehabilitation