

Future of Drug Treatment Waiting Times Project

Background

The Substance Misuse Programme within Information Services Division (ISD) is currently responsible for collection and publication of Drug Treatment Waiting Times data. The current system was developed 5 years ago as an interim measure for those Alcohol & Drug Action Teams (now Alcohol & Drug Partnerships, ADPs) without systems of their own. Each ADP operates its own database and submits reports to ISD. ISD collates this data and publishes on a quarterly basis.

The publications include details on the number of clients waiting and the time waited for by clients (1) to be offered an assessment date, (2) to be offered an appointment date for their first intervention and (3) to be offered an appointment date for specific interventions: - structured preparatory & motivational intervention, prescribed drug treatment, community based support/ rehabilitation and residential rehabilitation.

Further background information on the **Waiting Times Information Framework** can be found on our website at:

<http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/wtpilot/waiting.htm>

HEAT target A11: To offer faster access to appropriate treatment to support recovery

HEAT target A11:

By March 2013, 90% of clients will wait no longer than 3 weeks from referral received to appropriate drug or alcohol treatment that supports their recovery.

During 2008-09 the Scottish Government published its **recovery focussed drugs strategy** and a new framework to tackle alcohol misuse which commits to improving treatment and support services.

In line with the Scottish Governments recovery focussed drugs strategy it was announced that from April 2009, a HEAT target would be developed, to offer drug misusers faster access to appropriate treatment to support their recovery. This target has now been **expanded to incorporate waiting times for alcohol treatment services**; 2010-2011 will be a developmental year for the alcohol component of the target.

Future of Waiting Times Data Collection

In order to measure and support this HEAT target it will be more important than ever that data is consistently available in a timely manner. As such ISD are currently in discussions with a developer regarding improving the data collection system for drug treatment waiting times, and incorporating the collection of alcohol treatment waiting times. The new system will be delivered early in 2011 and until then the current data collection template will continue to be the main source of drug treatment waiting times data.