

Improving Access to Substance Misuse Treatment Services for Offenders Sunderland City Council

In Sunderland access to treatment services for those who misuse substances has been reduced from 12 weeks to just 12 hours, with access in 2 hours for those with most need.

Over the last three years Sunderland has re-designed its substance misuse treatment services for offenders to put the needs of the customer at the forefront of all planning. Practical steps have been taken to remove barriers to services with the implementation of a single point of contact for referral and the integration of community and criminal justice services to realise efficiency savings and build capacity. As a result waiting times for treatment services have been significantly reduced.

This workshop provides an opportunity for delegates to hear about the learning from Sunderland and explore practical steps that can be taken to simplify access into services. It also explores how prescribing, advocacy, mentoring, social coaching can provide the answer to unmet need and there will be an opportunity to focus on joint commissioning to meet health and social care need simultaneously to achieve a sustainable reduction in re offending.