


6 December 2023

Subject:	Implementation Plan for a Recovery Oriented System of Care in Sandwell
Presenting Officer and Organisation 	Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Officer Nick Shough Sandwell Council Public Health D&A Team Nick2_shough@sandwell.gov.uk
Purpose of Report	Information

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 To consider and comment upon the Implementation Plan for a Recovery Orientated System of Care (ROISC) in Sandwell.
- 1.2 That the Board endorses the plan and supports the implementation of progress, maintaining oversight as appropriate.

2 Links to the following Board Priorities

Priority 1	<p>We will help keep people healthier for longer Connection of individual with substance use issues with recovery communities and networks aid those planning their recovery whilst in treatment.</p> <p>Data available has shown that sustaining treatment for a period of greater than five- years greatly reduces the risk of relapse.</p> <p>The implementation plan for Sandwell had integrated the Five Ways to Wellbeing model into recovery orientated activities and group- based events.</p>
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	<p>The plan had adopted a person- centred approach with the core value that all individuals have the capacity to thrive in the appropriate circumstances through strength and character.</p>
Priority 2	<p>We will help keep people safe and support communities By helping individuals to recover their health, regain life skills, repair damaged relationships, and rebuild fulfilling lives, a thriving and vibrant recovery community and recovery offer will assist people to maintain long-term recovery with an ever-decreasing risk of relapse. Individuals will develop informal support networks and friendships that will begin to make recovery more visible, attractive, and achievable to others who feel they cannot achieve it.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the work set out in this Plan will lay the foundations for the Sandwell Recovery Community to grow and develop new groups and projects that will be of benefit to others in recovery as well as to the wider community.</p>
Priority 3	<p>We will work together to join up services The development of this plan for a ROISC has been informed by ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) principles, meaning that we view the area as already rich in assets and every individual as having skills, gifts, and passions to share, and takes a strengths-based approach.</p> <p>The ‘Recovery in Sandwell’ E-bulletin/ newsletter promotes any groups, activities, or support services that are offered in Sandwell that could be beneficial to people in recovery, with a lot of the content coming directly from attending the Sandwell Networkers Forum and the six town-based networking meetings every month.</p> <p>We have provided grant funding up to £10k for nine Recovery Projects in 2023, instantly bringing nine charitable organisations into the fold of the recovery community to work with this client-group in some cases for the first time.</p> <p>In September there were thirty stalls in the networking area of the ‘Recovery Event 4 Sandwell’, with 130 people in attendance, we created a fantastic vibrant space for people to share details and talk about recovery. The feedback was great with a couple of comments that it was the best networking event they had been to.</p>
Priority 4	<p>We will work closely with local people, partners and providers</p>

	<p>The Recovery event in September was planned and then supported on the day, by a group of nine people with lived or living experience (Experts by Experience) of treatment and recovery from drugs or alcohol. With the group giving their ideas, making decisions about content, catering, and costs, as well as volunteering on the day, this event was truly coproduced.</p> <p>In 2024 we are expanding the small grants offer, aiming to get more organisations to engage with the recovery community and be an active part of it. We want to raise recovery awareness and understanding by engaging with community and statutory providers across Sandwell with the aim of becoming a Recovery Informed Borough.</p> <p>The Recovery Model benefits everybody, the individuals themselves and their loved ones whose lives become safer and less unpredictable; services benefit as people offer their time as volunteers and staff feel more inspired as positive long-term outcomes become achievable for more of their cases and success stories emerge around them; society benefits as people shift from being a burden on the community to becoming an active and productive member of it; and the public purse benefits as recovery becomes embedded and recidivism is reduced and health is improved.</p>
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The implementation plan was created following an initial visit to the Cranstoun Service User Group meeting in which it was agreed that I promised to develop a plan that would create a foundation for building and planning recovery oriented projects, an initial draft version of the document was circulated among a network of providers and partners and service users for comment and feedback. A second draft was then circulated for approval which then became the final version.
- 4.2 The Service User Group represents those currently receiving treatment in Sandwell and influences treatment programmes. The total number of service users currently receiving treatment in Sandwell is 712 for alcohol use and 1,328 for drug use.
- 4.3 In September 2023, the UK Governments guidance for the Development of Recovery Support Services (RSS) was published, this guidance has

informed the production of references, it includes much of what is the Sandwell ROISC Implementation Plan.

Background

- 4.3 The origins of the modern Recovery Movement as an organising paradigm, can be traced back to the work of Dr William White in the U.S. from about 1997 onwards. By academically studying the factors that contribute to long term recovery, the idea of recovery capital and how to get it has come to the fore of the conversation.
- 4.4 In 2021, the Dame Carol Black Report was highly critical of the disinvestment in treatment and recovery by the incumbent government, with the subsequent national strategy From Harm to Hope placing a strong emphasis and responsibility on each locality to develop communities of recovery. In 2023 and 2024 there are additional OHID funds to help improve treatment and recovery outcomes.

Building Recovery Capital

- 4.5 Those entering treatment services tend to have lower levels of personal and social capital and are more vulnerable. The role of recovery-oriented support is to help and support the person and their significant others, to build their recovery capital and become less reliant on treatment services, helping with the identification of personal and social capital that builds on people's strengths, resources, resilience and ability to manage their own life. It is a strengths-based approach.
- 4.6 The aim of recovery (and therefore treatment) is for marginalised individuals and families to develop healthy, supportive and contributing relationships within their community. Recovery can only be maintained in natural community environments and if treatment services do not work with individuals to build individual, family and community recovery capital, they will be continually recycled through the treatment system.

Sustainability & timescales

- 4.7 The proposals in this plan are sustainable in that the projects and enterprises that emerge will run by and for people in recovery. Project leaders will be guided and supported to build sustainability into their planning and development.
- 4.8 The timescale for this plan is to have put each element into place by 31 March 2025, which is when my post ends. However, these are just the foundations to sow the seeds that will grow over the next ten years. In

areas where there are now commissioned Recovery Support Services (RSS) provided by Lived Experience Recovery Organisations (LERO's), those LERO's began 10-15 years ago.

- 4.9 All activities of Sandwell Public Health Addictive Behaviours Team are scrutinised by the Sandwell Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board which meets quarterly.

A Recovery Oriented Integrated System of Care looks like:

- Real informed choices at each stage of treatment process
- Peer to peer support
- Mutual aid
- Assertive link between treatment & recover support
- Long-term pathways to recovery
- No stuck staff and no stuck clients
- Lived Experience Recovery Organisations
- Supportive peer recovery activities and networks
- Celebrations of success

5 Engagement

Consultation carried out

- 5.1 The commitment to a ROISC was made in the 2022 Sandwell Drug and Alcohol Strategy which was produced following a commissioned consultation that was conducted by an independent research company.
- 5.2 The mapping of existing recovery provision in Sandwell was another commissioned consultation that was conducted by LINXS research consultants and made ten recommendations, half of which made reference to improvements to treatment provision.

6 Implications

Resources:	There were no resources currently allocated for the premises and operating costs of the proposed recovery hub. The delivery plan envisaged that volunteers, rather than paid staff would support with the early stages of the project. It was common for funding via Drug and Alcohol grant programmes to be utilised for projects such as this, as well
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	as organisations such as Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisation and national schemes such as the Big Lottery Fund.
Legal and Governance:	The ROISC Implementation Plan proposals are supported by the UK Government strategy 'From Harm to Hope' and the UK Government guidance for the Development of Recovery Support Services (RSS).
Risk:	No risk implications directly arising as a result of this report.
Equality:	Endeavours to reduce the stigma of Individuals associated with substance related issues supports the equality objectives of the Council.
Health and Wellbeing:	The Delivery Plan for a Recovery Orientated System of Care promotes healthy lifestyle choices and recovery tools. The Five Ways to Wellbeing model is used which further wellbeing outcomes for the communities of Sandwell.
Social Value:	Creating an infrastructure for LERO's to develop with grant funding and volunteer input supports efforts to ensure value for money in future projects and are aligned to positive social value outcomes.
Climate Change:	No climate change implications directly arising as a result of this report.
Corporate Parenting:	No corporate parenting implications directly arising as a result of this report.

7. Appendices

Appendix One - Implementation Plan for a Recovery Oriented System of Care in Sandwell

Appendix Two – Presentation to be delivered to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

8. Background Papers & References

Sandwell Drug and Alcohol Strategy, Sandwell Drug and Alcohol Partnership 2022