

## **Agenda Item 6**

# **Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards Update**



## Falkirk IJB Clinical and Care Governance Committee

24 March 2023

### Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards Update For Consideration and Comment

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report provides an update to the Clinical and Care Governance Committee (CCGC) on progress made by the Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership (FADP) towards delivering the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards.

#### 2. Recommendations

The Clinical and Care Governance Committee is asked to:

- 2.1 consider and comment on the report.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 Scottish Government has committed to a 5-year plan, with associated funding increases, to address the rise of drug-related deaths. This National Drugs Mission is supported by an additional £50million of funding each year and will assist with the development and implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards in Local Authorities and Health Boards. It will also increase access to residential rehab, provide support to families and friends, and develop lived experience contribution routes to ADPs.
- 3.2 Funding is subject to the National Resource Allocation (NRAC) share and Falkirk will receive £3,014,408 in total for 2022-23. Overall, Forth Valley will receive £5,729,075, with £490,090 (NRAC split between the two ADPs) ringfenced for MAT Standards implementation work. This has been used on a Forth Valley basis to employ three members of staff:
  - Project Manager (24 months temporary post)
  - Improvement Advisor (23 months temporary post)
  - Clinical Pharmacist (permanent post)
- 3.3 The Integration Joint Board received a report at its meeting on 18 November 2022 providing an overview of progress made by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

## 4. Delivering the MAT Standards (Implementation Plan & Quarterly Progress Report)

- 4.1 The Scottish Government published the Drug Deaths Taskforce's recommendations for the MAT Standards in May 2021. The Standards are intended to help reduce drug-related deaths, and other harms and to promote recovery. There are 10 Standards, the first 5 of which were initially required to be fully embedded in substance use treatment systems across Scotland by April 2022. The Scottish Government have since revised this date and now expects implementation by April 2023.
- 4.2 A steering group has been convened to oversee the progress of delivering the MAT Standards. The group is chaired in rotation by FADP and Clackmannanshire & Stirling ADP (CSADP). Leads have been identified for each of the MAT Standards and will report progress into the steering group.
- 4.3 All ADPs were required to submit a Quarterly Project Update Report in January 2023, detailing progress made on the MAT Standards Implementation Plan signed off by IJB Chief Officers.
- 4.4 A summary of progress is noted below:

MAT Standard		RAG Status
MAT Std 1	All people accessing services have the option to start MAT from the same day of presentation.	On track to achieve actions/ deliverables
MAT Std 2	All people are supported to make an informed choice on what medication to use for MAT and the appropriate dose.	
MAT Std 3	All people at high risk of drug-related harm are proactively identified and offered support to commence or continue MAT.	
MAT Std 4	All people are offered evidence-based harm reduction at the point of MAT delivery.	
MAT Std 5	All people will receive support to remain in treatment for as long as requested.	
MAT Std 6	The system that provides MAT is psychologically informed (tier 1); routinely delivers evidence-based low intensity psychosocial interventions (tier 2); and supports individuals to grow social networks.	
MAT Std 7	All people have the option of MAT shared with Primary Care.	

MAT Standard		RAG Status
MAT Std 8	All people have access to independent advocacy and support for housing, welfare and income needs.	On track to achieve actions/ deliverables
MAT Std 9	All people with co-occurring drug use and mental health difficulties can receive mental health care at the point of MAT delivery.	
MAT Std 10	All people receive trauma informed care.	

- 4.5 The team is confident that the Implementation Plan agreed with Scottish Government, and signed off by the IJB Chief Officers, will be achieved within the expected time frame. This work spans all Forth Valley Local Authorities and is developed in partnership with Falkirk ADP, Clackmannanshire & Stirling ADP and NHS Forth Valley.
- 4.6 The Falkirk ADP Lead Officer continues to work with the MAT Project Manager, the ADP Lead Officer for Clackmannanshire & Stirling, and the MAT Standards Implementation Support Team (MIST) to support collection of experience-based, clinical, and numerical data to assist with the local implementation of the standards. ADP Leads worked with people with lived experience from the recovery community throughout February 2023 to gather experiential data.
- 4.7 The ADP has been actively developing and strengthening its linkages to local strategic partnerships such as, the Community Justice Partnership, Adult Support & Protection Committee, Community Planning Partnership, and Public Protection Chief Officers Group. This will support and enable the work of the ADP to deliver on priorities such as the MAT Standards, National Drug Mission, increasing access to residential rehabilitation and to promote the role of lived experience.
- 4.8 The Minister for Drugs Policy, Angela Constance, has requested a meeting with ADP Leads, Chairs, and IJB Chief Officers to discuss local progress on the MAT Standards. It is anticipated that the Minister will visit Forth Valley in May 2023.

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The report provides an update on the work towards implementing the Scottish Government's Medication Assisted Treatment Standards.

- 5.2 This is a significant piece of work which will affect all parts of the substance use treatment system in Falkirk and across Forth Valley. Progress is being carefully monitored by regular update meetings and reports. The requirement of Standards 1-5 to be embedded by April 2023 is expected to be delivered on time.

#### Resource Implications

This work will be led by the ADP Chair and ADP Lead Officer. Wider resource implications will become clearer as work progresses and developments will be communicated via the ADP to the IJB as required.

#### Impact on IJB Outcomes and Priorities

The IJB has responsibility for the work of the ADP. The ADP priorities are reflected in the Falkirk Plan, and the HSCP Strategic Plan.

#### Directions

There is no change in direction required at this point.

#### Legal & Risk Implications

Board Members need to be aware of the considerable potential risks associated with issues contained within this report not being actioned. The work of the ADP is reflected on the Public Protection Chief Officers Group Risk Register.

#### Consultation

No consultation is necessary at this time.

#### Equalities Assessment

EPIA reference: 00477

An initial EPIA has been completed and a full EPIA is not required. This paper provides an update on progress of Falkirk Alcohol and Drug Partnership (FADP) towards delivering the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards for Committee to note. The Committee is not being asked to make a decision which will impact people, therefore a full EPIA is not required.

## 6. Report Author

- 6.1 Phillip Heaton, ADP Lead Officer

## 7. List of Background Papers

- 7.1 Scottish Government correspondence

## 8. Appendices

8.1 none