

## **Funded Project Case Study- Needle Exchange**

Background- Needle Exchange- pilot project (Feb 2019- Feb 2020)

SGP funded pilot project (£1,500) responding to high levels of shoplifting associated with needle exchange clients. Partnership delivery provided by Guildford Action and Public Health (SCC).

Project aims:

- reduce the spread of HIV, hepatitis C and other diseases associated with IV drug use
- provide a safe place for the disposal of used injecting equipment
- supply health promotion/ harm reduction advice and signposting to treatment services

Guildford Action provided access to injecting equipment, harm reduction advice and support, safe disposal of used equipment and engagement with other treatment services.

Project outcomes:

- providing equipment directly to the homeless community
- diverting individuals injecting drugs away from the high street
- partners reported reduction in shoplifting / anti-social behaviour and drug litter
- 24 individuals accessed the exchange
- 1413 works dispensed
- safe disposal of equipment: 943 returned (significantly higher than those returned to pharmacies)
- 15 people referred to treatment services
- partnership with the hospital hepatitis clinic, with the aim of getting the disease under control
- worked alongside I-Access to raise awareness of treatment services
- secured a weekly drop-in service at Guildford Action to fast-track prescription process

Update (April 2020 to March 2021)

- 702 clean works dispensed
- approximately 1,235 works safely disposed of
- remained open throughout COVID-19 pandemic
- rearranged their medical room to increase engagement and conversation
- commissioned by Public Health to dispense Naloxone (lifesaving opioid antidote)
- dispensed 50 Naloxone kits to 20 agencies and 14 service users
- provided Naloxone training to 89 individuals across 17 Guildford services
- plan to increase the number of Naloxone kits dispensed, provide training to local businesses and organisations, and host a Naloxone / opioid addiction Peer to Peer project.