

FACT SHEET 4

Wirral Drugs in the Workplace Initiative

Where to find help

If you think one of your employees may have a drug misuse or alcohol problem check your organisation's policy (if you have one) and follow procedures which are laid down in it.

Below are details of local services and resources that might help you manage the situation, offer support or signpost your employee to the right sort of help. All services are completely confidential.

Wirral Stimulant Service at ARCH Initiatives on 0151 647 8633 or the **Port House** (part of Wirral Drug Service) on 0151 653 2443 offers help to people who use stimulants.

This service has been expanded to be easily accessible and to support adults who are working and want treatment. Acupuncture and reflexology are amongst the treatments available.

Tel: 0151 653 2443 or 0151 647 8633 or www.wirraldrugservice.org.uk

For help with other drug and alcohol problems:

Wirral Drugs Service offers a wide range of treatment and support services for drug users from its base at St. Catherine's Hospital in Tranmere and in the community.

Tel: 0151 604 7330 or www.wirraldrugservice.org.uk

ARCH Initiatives, Conway Street, Birkenhead, provides tailored treatment programmes to adults with drug problems in the community and referral to other services where appropriate. Services range from drop-in sessions to structured programmes and aftercare. Birchwood Detox Unit, Oxtun, offers residential detoxification programmes.

Tel: 0151 647 8633.

Phoenix House Drug Rehabilitation Centre, Bidston, provides residential rehabilitation and support to adults whose drug use affects them at work. Rehabilitation includes supporting employees and their employers to enable return to work.

Tel: 0151 652 2667 or www.phoenixhouse.org.uk

Wirral Alcohol Service, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, offers information and treatment for people with alcohol related problems.

Tel: 0151 647 4999 or www.wirraldrugservice.org.uk

Contact **Response** for support for employees who are under 18. Response is a counselling, support and advocacy service for young people aged 13-25. It has a specialist substance misuse team for 13-19 year olds and will assess and refer to other agencies where appropriate.

Tel: Response and Substance Misuse Team at Response on 0151 666 4123

Resources for your workplace

Local resources:

The Wirral Drugs in the Workplace initiative is the Wirral DAAT's (Drug and Alcohol Action Team's) programme to action the updated National Drugs Strategy. The strategy aims to engage the business community, professional and trade organisations helping them introduce effective policies; to raise awareness of drugs issues among their own workforces; and to take a role to tackle drug misuse in the community.

Materials available through the programme:

- An information leaflet to help employees with drug related problems to access local and national support.
Contact Wirral DAAT on 0151 651 0011 for copies of the leaflet.
- You can also access the National Drugs website and you will be able to access a range of new publications which will help you to introduce and develop National workplace policies and information for employees.
www.drugs.gov.uk/ReportsandPublications/Communities

National helplines and websites

FRANK is a national helpline that offers free confidential advice and information about drugs 24 hours a day. Contact FRANK online at www.talktofrank.com or call 0800 77 66 00.

Drinkline provides free and confidential advice on any aspect of drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (Tuesday to Thursday 9.00 am to 11.00 pm, Friday to Monday 24 hours)

Release is a confidential help line offering advice on drug use and legal issues. Tel: 020 7729 9904 Monday to Friday from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm or www.release.org.uk

The Health and Safety Executive website offers advice on policy development and legal issues etc. www.hse.gov.uk/alcoholdrugs/index.htm

DrugScope aims to advise on policy development and reduce drug related risk. Tel: 020 7928 1211 or visit www.drugscope.org.uk

The **ACAS** advisory booklet **Health and Employment** provides information on handling drug related problems in the workplace. Call ACAS Publications on 0870 242 90 90 or view online at www.acas.org.uk

Progress2work

Progress2work (p2w) is a Jobcentre Plus programme to help former drug users access training or employment. It is a voluntary programme and is opened to anyone who is unemployed, in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance, Income Support, Incapacity Benefit, Carers Allowance, Disability Living Allowance or Severe Disability Living Allowance either directly or indirectly.

Each p2w district is contracted to a specialist provider whose role is to support each p2w participant. These providers have expertise in working with former drug users and helping them to move on.

When a person starts on p2w they are allocated to a support worker. Together they will develop an action plan to move forward. There may be issues that need to be addressed before training or employment can be accessed. These could include such things as housing, counselling, relapse prevention, family problems, health problems basic skills needs, criminal convictions and many more. Although the support worker may not be an expert in all these areas, they will have access to someone who is.

The aim is to help p2w participants access training or work that is suitable for them and, more importantly, what they want to do. The support worker will offer practical, realistic help and advice and will remain in contact with the participant throughout their training or employment until their need for help finishes or they have been in work for 13 weeks.

Progress2work is available to anyone who has used drugs, or is stable, and sees their drug use as an obstacle to them getting work.

Your **progress2work** co-ordinator on Wirral is:

Pauline Regan
Jobcentre Plus
Hordan House
Birkenhead
Tel: 0151 649 1027

Wirral Drugs at Work programme is funded through the Communities Against Drugs initiative – a partnership between Wirral (DAAT) Drug and Alcohol Action Team and Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. It aims to:

- reduce drug related crime and disorder
- strengthen community partnership
- disrupt drug markets