

Sharing the care the Birmingham way

Why does it work?

May 2009

The logo for Swanswell, featuring the word "swanswell" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The text is centered on a horizontal rectangular background that has a crumpled, textured appearance in various shades of green. The background has a slight shadow beneath it, giving it a three-dimensional effect.

swanswell

Keypoint 1

- We are Swanswell.
- We provide a range of drug and alcohol treatment services and floating support for adults across Birmingham, Coventry and Warwickshire.



Keypoint 2

- Drug treatment provision through Primary Care accounts for approximately 50% of drug treatment services in Birmingham.
- Swanswell involves over 100 GP practices, more than 70% in Birmingham, and is the biggest of its kind in the UK.

drugs



be well

stay well

swanswell

Keypoint 3

- Shared care is provided by Swanswell, a charity with a 40 year track record of tackling substance misuse.
- Swanswell has received national awards for its Trainee Drug Worker programme and alcohol interventions within shared care.



Keypoint 4

- Shared care rivals other treatment models, with more complex cases being managed in Primary Care.
- Factors like flexibility and local availability means patients choose.

Keypoint 5

- Swanswell in Birmingham is currently working with over 2000 service users in shared care.
- Service users are involved in Swanswell at all levels, from treatment to board decisions.

get

involved

swanswell

Keypoint 6

- Partnership working with pharmacies is an extension of the shared care partnership in Birmingham with excellent communication between GP and drug workers.

work

well

together

swanswell

Keypoint 7

- **Drug clinic surgery review meetings for every practice happen every 6-12 months allowing continuous improvements in the service.**

Keypoint 8

- **Locally enhanced service for shared care between each practice, DAT and the PCT provides financial support and describes the commitment expected from the practices.**
- **Benefits of these contracts attract GPs to the scheme.**



Benefits for the GP

I have my own named drug worker who sees clients at the practice. My drug worker adapts to the way my practice works. I can manage my other responsibilities at the practice alongside the drug clinic.

I am supported by my GPSI mentor who is easily contactable. I can also contact Swanswell for guidance.

Benefits for the drug worker

I have regular time with the GP to discuss cases.

I record client sessions on practice notes. My care plans and assessments are shared with the GP.

Benefits for the client

I have access to the nurse and other healthcare at the surgery.

I get advice & information on substitute prescribing options, education, training, employment & housing, as well as ways of overcoming the cycle of using drugs.

Summary

- Shared care is about communication between drug worker, GP, pharmacist and client.
- Shared care is about holistic treatment of client needs.
- Shared care is about ensuring clinical safety.
- “Sharing the care” – We all have our crucial part to play in addressing drug use.

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