

HOSC – Drug and Alcohol Recommissioning Update 20th April 2026

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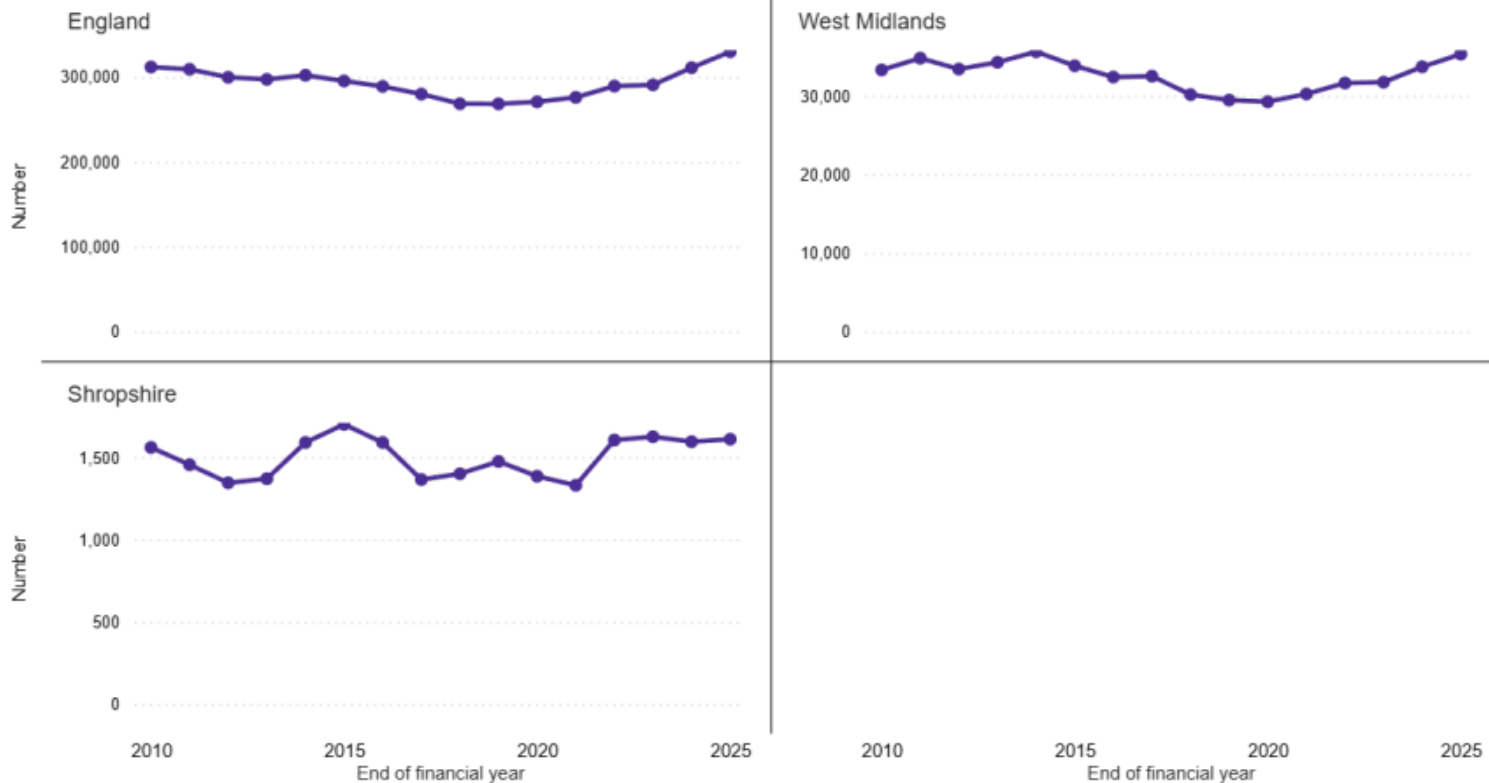
Overview

- Drug and alcohol services were recommissioned in 2019 and have since been provided by WithYou (previously Addaction). The current contract ends in March 2027.
- Services are delivered from 3 main offices in Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Ludlow, with satellite clinics and services from other community locations
- The service closely links with the Council's drug and alcohol service for those rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping – RESET
- Services range from brief advice and harm reduction to structured interventions, inpatient detox and residential rehabilitation
- Funded by Public Health Grant with ringfences

Adults in Structured Treatment

Total

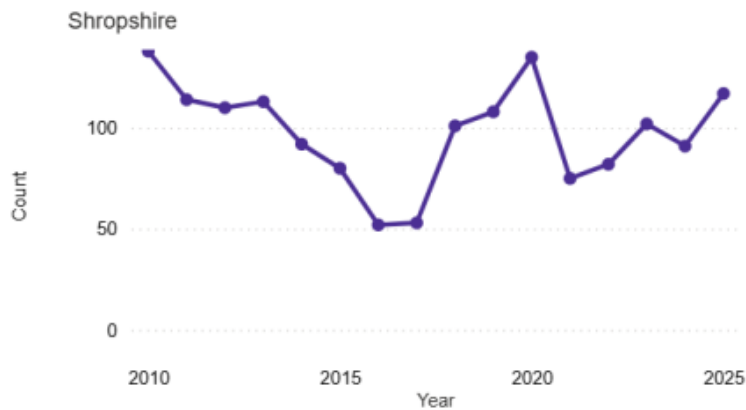
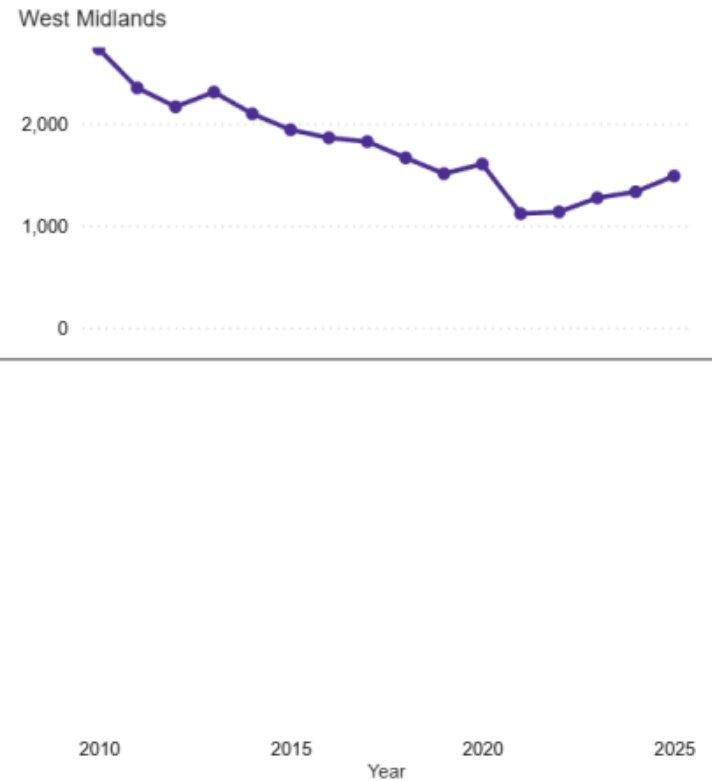
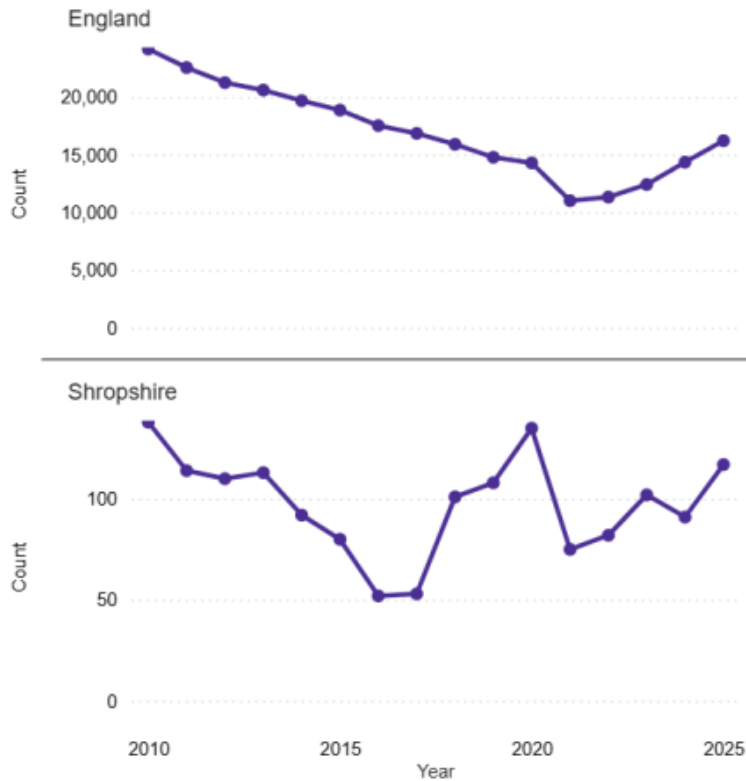
All in treatment - (Opiate, Non-opiate only, Alcohol only, Non-opiate & alcohol) - (Male, Female) - (18-29, 30-49, 50+)



Young People in Treatment

Total

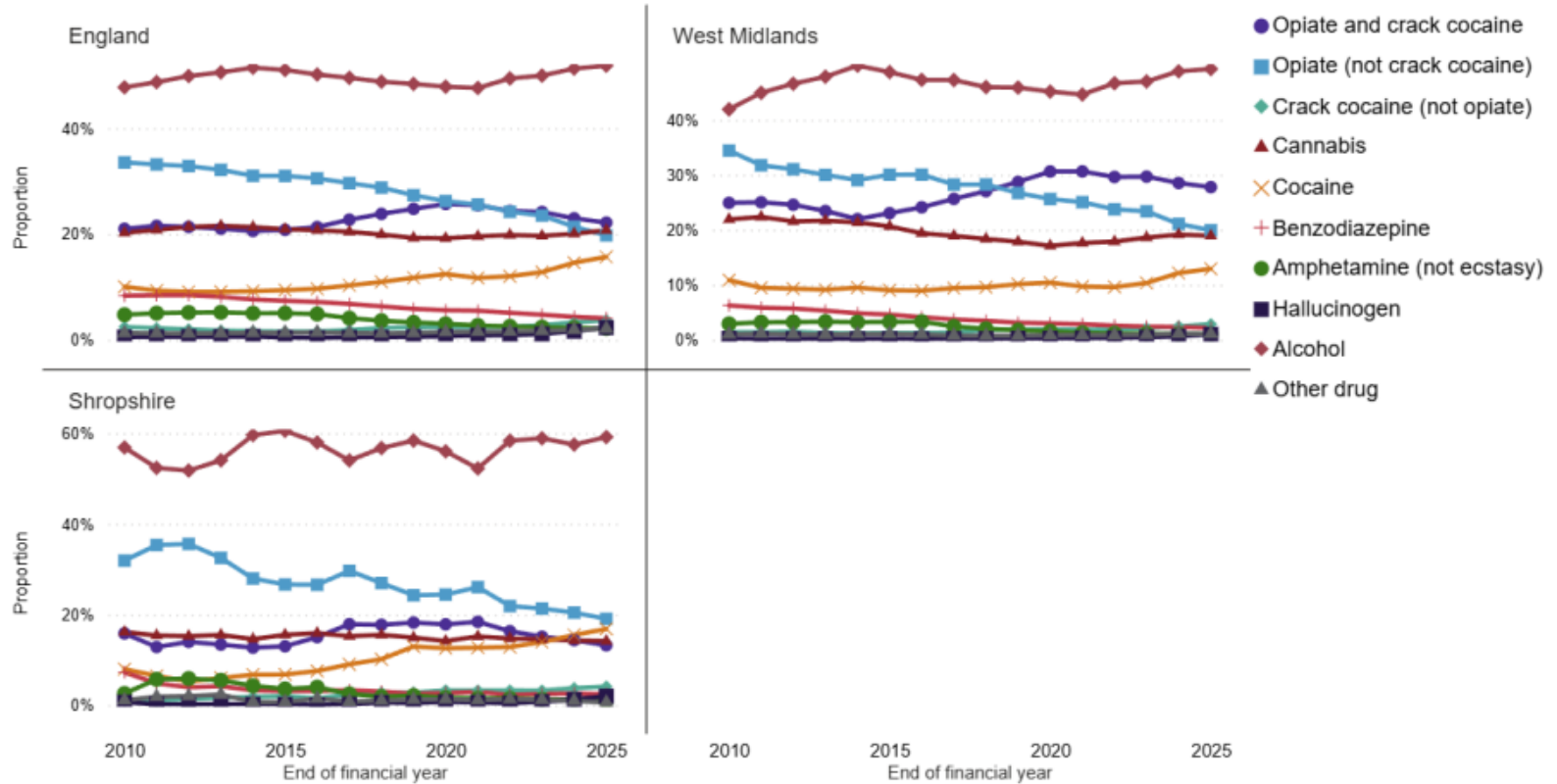
All in treatment - - 2009/10 - 2024/25 - (Male, Female) - (Under 14, 14-15, 16-17)



Substance Use - Adults

Substance use - All in treatment

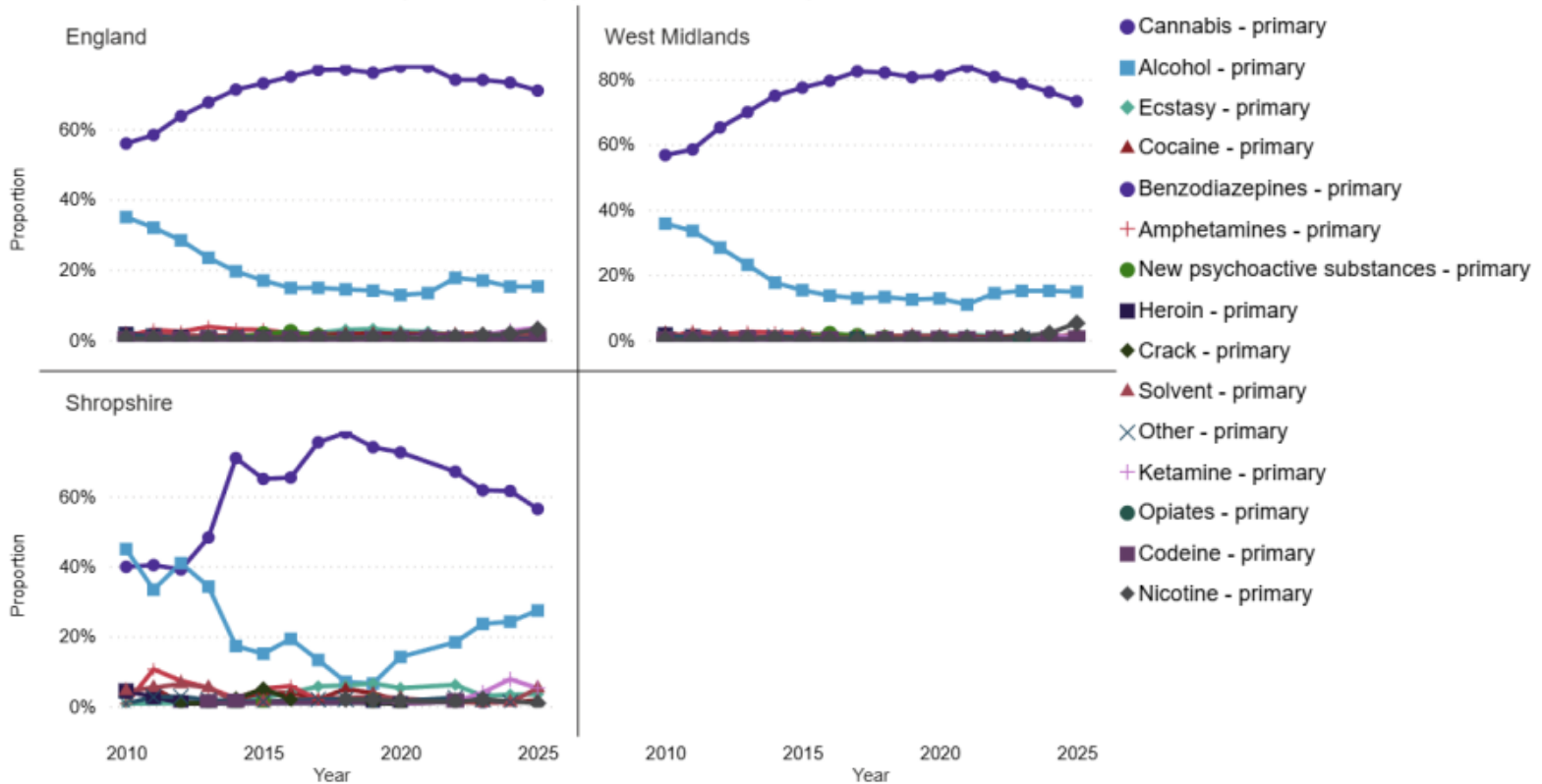
All in treatment - (Opiate, Non-opiate only, Alcohol only, Non-opiate & alcohol) - (Male, Female) - (18-29, 30-49, 50+)



Substance Use – Young People

Substance use - primary citation

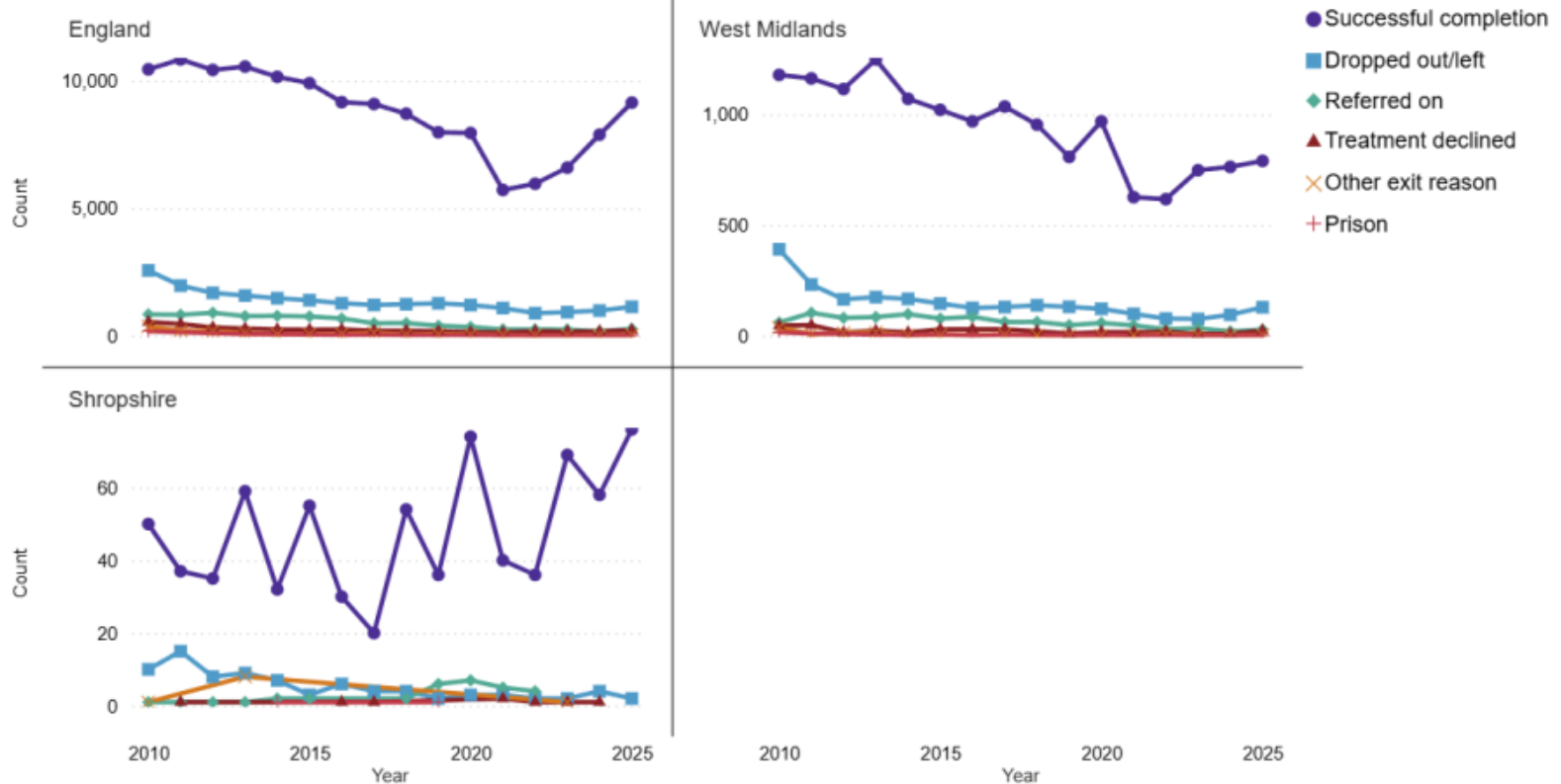
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Treatment Exits – Young People

Treatment exits

All in treatment - - 2009/10 - 2024/25 - (Male, Female) - (Under 14, 14-15, 16-17)



Local Updates & Activity

- **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) & Engagement** - The JSNA is being developed to inform commissioning of community-based alcohol and drug treatment and recovery services in Shropshire
- **Recommissioning** – Summer 2026, to begin March 2027
- **RESET service** – To be considered alongside recommissioning
- **Community Detox** – First successful detox undertaken in 70 Castle Foregate
- **Local Drug Information Systems (LDIS) and reviewing Drug and Alcohol-Related Deaths (DARD)** – Panels beginning to review drug and alcohol related deaths and suicides
- **Blue Light Project** – MDTs and training for professionals
- **Webinars** – Successful Ketamine webinar and schedule ahead

JSNA - Shropshire is doing well with...

An 8.5% increase in adults accessing structured treatment

Oct 2024 to Sep 2025, compared to the previous year

126 children and young people accessed structured treatment

Oct 2024 to Sep 2025, a 37% increase from the previous year

A high proportion of alcohol-only clients entering treatment

much higher than the national rate

Higher employment rates among those in treatment than nationally

Only 1% of adults waited more than 3 weeks to start treatment

better than previous years and below the national average

90% of adults in treatment have stable and suitable housing
higher than nationally

Shropshire has invested in **RESET**, supported accommodation options and strengthened links with housing providers. This has resulted in a **rapid increase in engagement** from rough sleepers

Unmet mental health need fell from 29% to 22%
between 2022 and 2025

Needle Syringe Programme access is geographically reasonable, with SRP offering in-service needle provision in central, northern, and southern areas, alongside an offer through pharmacies

Shropshire has a higher proportion of under 15s in treatment than nationally

Engagement with 15 to 16-year-olds also mirrors national levels

JSNA - Shropshire's areas of need...

High unmet need for drug treatment

Shropshire shows significant unmet need, especially for crack-only users (75%), opiates-only (58%), dual opiate and crack users (45%)

Ages 15 to 24 in Shropshire have much higher unmet opiate need than the England average

Unmet need for crack-only is higher than England for ages 35–54

Rural areas have significantly less engagement than urban ones likely due to transport issues, travel distances, digital exclusion, and fewer clinics, resulting in treatment access inequalities.

67% of referrals come from self, family or friends

which indicates that professional referral routes (GPs, A&E, social care, criminal justice) may not be utilised as fully as they could be.

Even though unmet mental health need is improving, the JSNA shows that **males continue to have higher unmet mental health needs** (particularly ages 18 to 29)

Adults dropping out of treatment (379) is higher than those completing treatment (321), with those in treatment for alcohol-only

Females are more likely to seek alcohol treatment as they age but younger women are less represented. Older women show higher rates of alcohol dependence

While alcohol clients show higher housing stability, **drug treatment clients are more likely to report housing problems** (16%) and an urgent housing need (7%) from the latest 2021/2022 data

Male alcohol related harm remains higher

Stakeholder & service user engagement

Challenges

Communication with GPs
 Continuity **Staffing**
Dementia support
 More support for those who lack capacity **Mental health services**
Rurality **Housing**
 Public transport

Opportunities

Increased partnership working Workforce stability
 Use of local hubs **Mental health support**
 Wellbeing support
 More regular appointments with key workers
 Male only groups Female only groups
 Increased sessions

“SMART groups have been a lifeline. I look forward to coming”

“A level of wellbeing support/mental health support based within the service would be beneficial as so many of the clients have mental health concerns. Opportunities to chat and open-up about mental health/emotional wellbeing would be positive”

Improved service helpful for repeat users

Good staff and service

I like that there is free parking available if you know where to find it in Oswestry

Group sessions are helpful

Central is ideal - good to have a base in the town centre

Easy walk into town

Opening times work well

Communication is good, they will text me, email me, write things down, whatever works for me to remind me

The commute is reasonable in the South

After service needs improvement

Turnover of key workers unhelpful

I have built the group timing into my routine

Text reminders before group meetings are appreciated

They will check in if you miss an appointment

JSNA - Recommendation S



Improve integrated working between substance misuse and mental health services to support Shropshire residents of any age with co-occurring substance misuse and mental health needs.



Ensure services respond to changing substance patterns, including rising non-opiate and alcohol-related need and gender differences. Females rising in non-opiates, non-opiates and alcohol, and alcohol only.



Continue to develop effective pathways to reduce ketamine use



Address unmet drug treatment need, especially for opiates and crack



Maintain and develop effective alcohol treatment pathways



Continue to improve and develop support for children who have parents in treatment to ensure services respond to the needs of the whole family



Continue to deliver the Shropshire Drug and Alcohol Strategy through the system level Combatting Drugs Partnership and the Shropshire Tackling Drug and Alcohol Partnership Groups and review the action plan in light of the JSNA findings



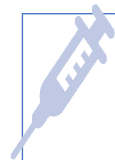
Reduce over-reliance on self-referral and strengthen professional referral routes



Enhance harm reduction and reduce preventable deaths



Reduce dropout rates for those accessing drug and alcohol treatment, especially with alcohol-only clients who are driving the largest volume of exits



Review Needle and Syringe Programme (NSP) coverage – particularly in under-served rural areas



Improve access and equity for rural communities

Market Engagement

- Engagement sessions undertaken with Provider market highlighted themes to consider
- Flexibility of service
- Hub and spoke delivery, structured mobile and outreach
- Protected identities of services; Adults, CYP, Rough Sleepers
- Face-to-face and digital offers
- Lived experience and visible recovery, women-specific and trauma-informed provision
- Neurodiversity and dual diagnosis around substance use and mental health
- Improving re-engagement, rapid prescribing

Forward plan

- Further engagement planned in April
- Project Board in place to oversee
- Specification currently being drafted
- Tender to be published for the next service in Summer 2026, to begin April 2027

Finally...

- **If you, friends, parents, guardians or others with a role supporting someone in Shropshire are concerned about alcohol or other substance use, the commissioned provider, Shropshire Recovery Partnership delivered by WithYou, provides free and confidential advice and support. More information on the service can be found here:**
- [Drug and Alcohol Support in Shropshire | WithYou](#)

Thank you.

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