



LDAN Network meeting: Welfare Reform

Summary of the group work feedback:

1. Do you currently have any links with local Drug Coordinators (DC) or JobCentre Plus (JCP)?

- Varied greatly from area to area. Some services had good positive links and regular contacts, other areas little or none
- Not all services had the contact details of their DC. A need for more marketing was identified
- Currently no DC's/JCP Advisers based within treatment services
- Croydon- Have drug outreach workers that come into the JCP
- Lewisham and Brent- examples of DC's visiting services/service user groups

2. How would you ideally like to work with Drug Coordinators/JobCentre Plus to help your clients through treatment and into employment?

- Providers would like the DC's involvement and support to provide links to employers for their clients
- Would like greater consistency in how the outreach role with external organisations is conducted
- More training for JCP advisors on drug and alcohol issues
- DC's should link together all the different treatment and employment services in a local area to help provide clearer referral routes
- More visibility needed for the Progress2Work/Link-Up provider in each Borough
- Providers wanted more information on how proposed employment support programmes would be contracted and who would be running them
- Cross-training schemes should be created between treatment providers/JCP
- Generic/housing outreach workers should be trained to advise of what JCP can offer
- There should be a system in place where peer workers work closely with DCs, and could also be employed by the JCP as advisors.
- Service users sometimes wish to have support workers/advocates with them at JCP appointments and there was a suggestion that currently JCP are not very accommodating to this
- After visiting the JCP clients may sometimes feel frustrated and thus be at a higher risk of using. There should be a counselling system in place to combat this risk