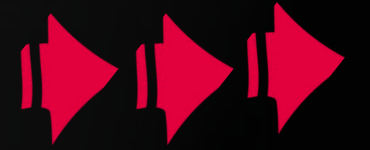




# SWERVE

A SAFE WAY TO ENGAGE



A Hackney-based harm reduction hub

**WORKING WITH THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY IN CITY  
AND HACKNEY**



THE HEPATITIS  TRUST

**LONDON JOINT  
WORKING GROUP**  
ON SUBSTANCE USE  
+ HEPATITIS C

# SWERVE

NSP

ADVICE

TESTING

NALOXONE

SUPPORT

- A harm reduction hub at CVS, woman's space Marie Lloyd Centre, and mobile van and trailer.
    - Outreach to homelessness, satellites, hostels in Hackney and The City
  - Provide harm reduction advice, resources and equipment, HCV HBV & HIV testing, synthetic drug tests, and warm meals
  - Staffed by lived and living experience volunteers, empowering them to help others
  - New women's service aimed at engaging with women in a discreet space
- 



# SWERVE

A SAFE WAY TO ENGAGE

A drop in space to get safe drug using kit

**FIND US:**

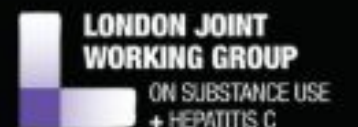
**Hackney CVS (the old library)**

**The Adiaha Antigha Centre**

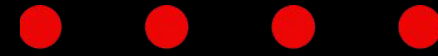
**24-30 Dalston Lane**

**London E8 3AZ**

**Monday - Friday 12-4pm**



# HARM REDUCTION



Small gains for many people will have more benefit for a community than heroic gains achieved for a select few

- **Keeping people who use drugs alive** and preventing irreparable damage is regarded as the most urgent priority
- **Any positive change** that individuals make in their lives should be acknowledged
- Harm reduction interventions are **facilitative rather than coercive** and are grounded in the needs of individuals. As such, harm reduction services are designed to meet people's needs where they currently are in their lives



# OUR IMPACT



- In its first year, **the service has distributed harm reduction equipment to 354 contacts**
- Many more people engage with the service for advice and information but do not collect NSP. **In total, 1,427 people engaged with the service over the year**
- **8,393 items of equipment have been dispensed.** The amounts dispensed are increasing each quarter as more people get to know about the service and as we embed our outreach to hostels
- **Naloxone has been provided 129 times**
- **355 synthetic drug testing kits have been dispensed** from the service



# OUR WORK WITH SNOWHILL



- ▶ Proactive door knocking and relationship building with residents
- ▶ We offer a delivery service through NSP Direct, and hostel residents can also call SWERVE's freephone to have our peers bring them kit
- ▶ We are able to refer residents to the Snowhill nurse Andriani for an initial health assessment
- ▶ Our work is an example of a joined up approach between a nurse and a harm reduction organisation to benefit the residents, and it is a success

# HEALTH ASSESSMENTS



- ▶ In the wellbeing van we offer HCV and HBV testing, as well as advice, sterile kit, synthetic drug tests and naloxone
- ▶ Working with Andriani we can offer a broader range of services.
- ▶ Andriani provides a number of vaccines, as well as full screen blood tests and STI tests
- ▶ We do our best to refer on to her, in order to get more care for the people we talk to about harm reduction

If they are not willing to be referred - SWERVE can help her by supporting the building of trust

# CASE STUDY



- Will came to the Hub as a 40 year old homeless man opiate dependent and had tested positive for hepatitis C.
- He wasn't in treatment and didn't have a methadone prescription. He came to the hub to get some foil, for use in taking heroin, and while he was there, he informed the volunteers of his hepatitis C status.
- With his consent, a member of the team contacted a hepatitis C nurse at a local drugs service, and booked an appointment.
- The team member accompanied Will to the drugs service for the appointment, where he had a confirmation test and other blood tests done.
- While there, he was also given information about a 'drop-in' session to be assessed for accessing a methadone programme. The Hepatitis C Trust bought Will a mobile phone to enable ongoing contact, and to remind him of future appointments.






# INSIGHT SURVEY



**November 2024 - April 2025, SWERVE invited people who engaged with the Hub to take part in an anonymous Insight Survey.**

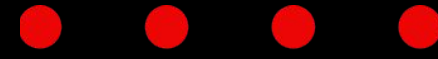
A £10 voucher was offered

163 respondents

-  80% have insecure housing or would rather not say
-  41% are living in a hostel
-  26% are rough sleeping



# WHAT'S NEXT?



- ▶ We moved into our permanent base this summer
- ▶ Developing collaborations with nurses like Andriani
  - Greater data sharing would be ideal
- ▶ We are developing fast track prescribing in Hackney
- ▶ Expanding our women's service
- ▶ Expanding our work in the City
- ▶ Exploring Safer Inhalation Pipe Provision
- ▶ Liaising with The Loop for synthetic drug testing



## WERVE

A SAFE WAY TO ENGAGE

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**FIND US AT OUR NEW BASE:** Hackney CVS (the old library)  
The Adiaha Antigha Centre  
24-30 Dalston Lane  
London E8 3AZ  
Monday - Friday 12-4pm

**CONTACT OUR WOMEN'S SERVICE:** 07983 136 701

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ON SUBSTANCE USE + HEPATITIS C



# **SWERVE collaboration with Guy's and St Thomas' Homeless & HIU Services, Health Inclusion Team, Integrated Local Services**

Andriani Karaoli  
Nurse Practitioner - Homeless Team  
Health Inclusion Team  
Integrated Local Services  
Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust



Guy's and St Thomas'  
NHS Foundation Trust

**HOMELESS & HIU  
SERVICES**

**HEALTH INCLUSION  
TEAM, INTEGRATED  
LOCAL SERVICES**

# WHAT WE DO

- Snow Hill Court – since January 2025 funded by City of London
- 14 pods, short stay assessment centre (Thames Reach)
- Engaged 40 patients over 108 consultations



# INTERVENTIONS DELIVERED

Interventions	Count
Health assessments	30
Blood testing total	21
BBVs & STIs	20
Wound care	1
GP referrals	21
Safeguarding referrals	2
Referral to mental health support	4
Mental Health Assessments	6
Medication support	13

Vaccinations	Count
Revaxis (Diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis)	3
Flu	3
Hepatitis B	11

# COMMON PRESENTATIONS/ HEALTH NEEDS

- ▶ Mental health
- ▶ Substance use
- ▶ Pain, MSK or other
- ▶ GI symptoms
- ▶ Skin conditions



# CASE STUDY

- 64-year-old male
- History of rough sleeping and disengagement from healthcare
- Unmanaged hypertension
- Urinary incontinence
- *Historic diagnosis: Paranoid personality disorder*
- *Presentation: Unkempt, self-neglect, often slept outside despite hostel accommodation*

## Interventions

- Regular attendance at weekly nurse-led clinic (over 2 months)
- Focus on medication adherence, health education, and physical & mental health monitoring
- Referral to Rough Sleeping Mental Health Project (RAMHP)
- Safeguarding referral raised
- Close collaboration between hostel staff

## Outcomes

- Re-engaged with healthcare
- Restarted medications
- Accepted RAMHP support and assessed by their MDT inc OT
- Importance of inclusion health in meeting complex needs

# SUMMARY OF SWERVE AND HEALTH INCLUSION COLLABORATION

- ▶ Example of a model of working jointly with a Clinical team
- ▶ In static sites with a holistic approach into people's wellbeing
- ▶ Supporting many aspects of people's life and filling the gaps with harm reduction, liver health, BBV testing, STI, wound care, mental health, safeguarding and more.

# CONTACTS AND QUESTIONS

Contact SWERVE harm reduction hub

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Guys and St Thomas

Andriani Karaoli

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