Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership

Financial Inclusion & Capability Service

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Working together for a caring, healthier, safer Edinburgh
Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership (EADP) delivering Addictions Recovery Services via 4 Geographic ‘Recovery Hubs’

- South West Edinburgh
- South East Edinburgh
- North East Edinburgh
- North West Edinburgh
Recovery Hub Partners

• NHS Lothian

• City of Edinburgh Council

• Third Sector
Recovery affected by:

- Income
- Debt
- Housing Crisis
- Benefit & Tax Credit changes
- Sanctions
- Work Related Activity
- Assessments for PIP
- Filling in Forms
Embedding Advice in Recovery

- 2014-16 Recovery Essentials Project (EVOC)
- 2017-present day Financial Inclusion & Capability Service (CHAI)

- Access to Systems and Records
- Welfare Rights Adviser Part of Team (sharing information / integration / nights out)
- Use Experienced Advisers (SNSIAP & FCA)
- Identify and Fix Problems Early
- Partnership Working
- Team Meetings / Training to feedback on success and emerging issues.
Key outcomes 2017/18

• 270 Individuals provided with advice (1 year)
• £636,577 in additional income gained for service users
• 3 x Financial Education Newsletters and 1x Booklet disseminated to clients
• 48% of service users survey respondents felt less anxious about their finances
• 96% of service users remained in secure / sustainable accommodation
Employability

• The project benefits from strong links to our employability service.
• Clients at the start of recovery are assisted with help to meet their Job seeking conditions and this prevents sanctions and suspension of benefits.
• Clients nearing the end of recovery are assisted to access work, training, study and volunteering opportunities.
Impacts

• Reduces Health Inequalities
• Frees up Staff Time
• Reduction in Prescribing
• Improved Health, Mental Health
• Clients Engage With Treatment
• Early Intervention
• Income Maximisation
• Increased Stability in Housing
• Employment
Case Study

- 50yr old male history substance misuse and related physical and mental health issues
- In wheelchair following accident 3 years ago
- Found to be fit for work by DWP
- ESA stopped
- An overpayment of housing benefit had occurred during a time in prison
Referral to Advisor

• Completed a Mandatory Reconsideration against the decision to stop ESA
• This was refused and an appeal lodged
• The advisor represented the client at a First Tier Social Security Tribunal
• Decision found in the clients favour
• Appeal allowed and client placed on Support Group ESA
• Tribunal recommended that DWP do not reassess the client due to long term nature of his health conditions
Managing Debt

• Housing benefit overpayment
• Established cause due to overpayment of housing benefit while in custody
• Advisor negotiated an affordable repayment arrangement with the Local Authority.
• Stabilised housing and manageable repayment of debt
Client

- Client received help from the substance misuse team
- Addressing drug use
- Life style change
- Responding well
- Engaging in local activity groups
- Income, debt and housing stabilised
Thank you

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