Treat addiction, cut crime

How treatment and recovery services reduce drug-related offending
Drug addiction and crime

A typical addict spends around £1,400 per month on drugs: 2½ times the average mortgage.

Many addicts commit crime to pay for their drugs.

Heroin, cocaine or crack users commit up to half of all acquisitive crimes – shoplifting, burglary, robbery, car crime, fraud, drug dealing.
Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery

Treatment and recovery are key parts of the government’s strategy to tackle drug addiction and the crime it causes.

Treatment helps drug users to recover from addiction, preventing crime and cutting health costs.

Drug treatment also improves the lives of users, their families and communities.
Drug-related crime costs society

The annual bill for drug-related crime runs to billions of pounds

Between them, every ten addicts not in treatment in 2010-11 committed:

13 robberies and bag snatches
23 burglaries
21 car-related thefts
And more than 380 shoplifting thefts

Any drug addict not in treatment costs society an average £26,074 a year. This includes:

- Robbery: £5,513
- Shoplifting: £4,798
- House burglary: £1,228

Drug treatment cuts crime

The moment they start treatment, drug addicts commit less crime

The crime they commit falls by almost half when they complete a treatment programme or stay in treatment for up to two years

The longer a drug user stays in treatment, the bigger the drop in his or her offending
Drug treatment prevented an estimated 4.9m offences in 2010-11

This includes:

- 100,000 fewer burglaries and robberies, saving individuals, homes and businesses £605m
- 75,000 fewer car thefts and break-ins, saving motorists and businesses £155m
- 1,100,000 fewer shoplifting thefts, saving retailers and businesses £137m
- 350,000 fewer acts of prostitution £unknown
- 25,000 fewer bags snatched £19m

Every £100 invested in drug treatment prevents a crime

Drug treatment could cut 95,000 offences in a large city

With a population of 440,000 and around 3,700 drug users in treatment...

Estimated crimes prevented in 2011-12 = 94,979
Estimated benefit = £17.9m

Fewer crimes means fewer victims
If spending on drug treatment is maintained

There will be between 14.7m-24.5m fewer offences in 2011-12 to 2014-15

The value of that reduction in crime will be £2.7bn-£4.5bn

If spending on drug treatment is cut

For every £1m disinvested in treatment there would be an estimated 10,000 crimes per year, costing around £1.8m.

What the public says

77% think drug treatment is a sensible use of public money
Source: DrugScope/ICM, 2009

80% believe drug treatment makes society better and safer
Source: IPSOS MORI/NTA, 2009

66% fear crime would increase without drug treatment
Source: IPSOS MORI/NTA, 2009
The long-term benefits of recovery

Drug treatment provides further gains when users leave successfully and sustain their recovery.

The average drug-taking career of a heroin user is 20 years. Treatment may reduce this by up to 9 years.

If all the drug users who started their recovery in 2010-11 sustain it, the estimated benefit would be £2.6bn.
Every £1 spent on drug treatment saves £2.50 to society

£1 = £2 50p

Makes communities safer
Protects public health
Helps drug users overcome addiction
Has public support

Source: DTORS. Home Office, 2007
How you can make a difference…

**Police and crime commissioners**
- make treating drug addiction a priority
- actively support continued investment in public health by local authorities
- support the Drug Interventions Programme

**Police**
- establish links with health and wellbeing boards
- maintain strong links with commissioners and treatment services
- support the Drug Interventions Programme

**Prison governors**
- support high-quality, evidence-based drug treatment to reduce re-offending
- maintain strong links with community treatment for offenders being released so their treatment continues
- be active in local drugs partnerships and commissioning groups

**Probation**
- encourage offender managers to refer drug-dependent offenders to community treatment services so they can recover from addiction

**Community safety partnerships**
- maintain strong links with drug and alcohol action teams, and health and wellbeing boards, in new public health arrangements
Find out more at www.nta.nhs.uk…

**Slide pack:** *Why Invest? How drug treatment and recovery services work for individuals, community and society*

**NTA research:** *Estimating the Crime Reduction Benefits of Drug Treatment and Recovery*

**The Impact of Drug Treatment on Reconviction**