Why invest?

How drug treatment and recovery services work for individuals, communities and society
Drug addiction is a complex but treatable condition. Those affected use drugs compulsively, damaging themselves and those around them. Drug addiction goes hand in hand with poor health, homelessness, family breakdown and offending.
Drug addiction is rare but concentrated

The level of heroin and crack use in urban Middlesbrough is six times that of rural Wiltshire.

306,000 heroin and crack users in England.

1,200,000 affected by drug addiction in their families – mostly in poor communities.

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The overall cost of drug addiction is huge

Every year it costs society

£15,400,000,000

The annual cost of drug-related crime is

£13.9bn

In 2011 the cost of deaths related to drug misuse was

£2.4bn

Any addicted person not in treatment commits crime costing an average

£26,074 a year

Every year drug misuse costs the NHS

£488m
Drug misuse damages physical and mental health

Liver damage
Undiagnosed or untreated hepatitis C can cause cirrhosis, liver failure, liver cancer and death.

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Lung damage
Smoking drugs and tobacco raises the risk.

Cardiovascular disease
A lifetime of drugs, alcohol and smoking raises risk for older drug users.

Depression, anxiety, psychosis and personality disorder
70% in drug treatment and 86% in alcohol treatment have mental health problems.

Muscles and skeleton
Arthritis and immobility are common among injectors.

Poor vein health
Many injectors develop circulatory problems and deep vein thrombosis.
Drug misuse causes deaths and spreads diseases

Fewer than 1% of all adults use heroin

But every year about 1% of them die (10 times the equivalent death rate in the general population)
Drug treatment improves health 1

60% of heroin users in England are in treatment – a foundation for public health gains

- Fewer injectors:
  - 137,000 (2004-05)
  - 103,000 (2009-10)

- Fewer sharing needles:
  - 33% (2001)
  - 17% (2011)

No vaccine for hepatitis C or HIV, so early testing and identification is vital

- In 2001 55% were tested for both: by 2011 83% were tested for hepatitis C and 77% for HIV
Drug treatment improves health 2

Drug treatment helps save lives

Deaths related to drug misuse escalated in the 1990s
Since the treatment system was expanded, deaths have stabilised at around 1,500 (1,461 in 2011).

Drug treatment and needle exchanges since 1980s:

Only 1.3% of drug injectors in England have HIV
Germany 3%
Sweden 2%
Russia 37%

45% of injectors have hepatitis C: stable since 2002 and comparatively low
Germany 75%
Sweden 60%
Russia 73%

Hepatitis C
Drug treatment brings major health savings

NICE says drug treatment is cost effective

All the people in drug treatment in 2010-11

£230m savings for the NHS

Drug treatment also prevented over 300 deaths in 2010-11, with a value of life of over

£500m
Drug treatment can improve other outcomes

- Improves wellbeing
- Stops emergency admissions
- Prevents suicide, self-harm and accidents
- Reduces reoffending
- Cuts crime
- Cuts homeless figures
- Reduces HIV, heart disease, respiratory disease, liver disease and cancer
- Prevents suicide, self-harm and accidents
- Improves wellbeing
A typical heroin user spends around £1,400 per month on drugs: 2½ times the average mortgage.

Many 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.

The annual cost of drug-related crime is £13,900,000,000.
Drug treatment cuts crime

Drug treatment prevents an estimated 4.9m crimes every year

4,900,000

Saving an estimated

£960,000,000

Costs to the public, businesses, criminal justice and the NHS
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
What happens without drug treatment?

Welfare dependence goes up

Drug deaths go up

Welfare dependence goes up

Crime goes up

Disease goes up

Without treatment, more drug users would claim benefits, adding to the estimated annual bill of £1bn

Remove the safety net of treatment, and drug users are twice as likely to die

Cuts to methadone treatment and needle exchanges could trigger a 25% rise in blood-borne viruses such as hepatitis C among drug injectors

Withdraw drug treatment, and crime could rise by as much as five million offences a year
So why spend on drug treatment?

It protects public health
- Prevents drug-related deaths
- Restricts blood-borne viruses (HIV, hepatitis C)
- Reduces the burden on the NHS

It makes communities safer
- Reduced crime
- Less drug litter and street prostitution
- Troubled families stabilised

It helps drug users overcome addiction
- 366,200 treated for drug addiction in England since 2005
- 104,900 (29%) left free of addiction
- 128,600 (35%) still being treated

It has public support
- 75% think drug treatment is a sensible use of public money
- 66% fear crime would increase without drug treatment
- 80% believe drug treatment makes society better and safer

Every £1 spent on drug treatment saves £2.50 in costs to society.
Treatment cannot work in isolation

Treatment in prisons and the community
- Psychosocial interventions
- Residential and community rehabilitation
- Inpatient detoxification
- Prescribing
- Harm reduction

Other recovery resources
- Families
- Self-help groups
- Mutual aid
- Recovery communities
- Faith organisations

Other local services
- GPs
- Family and parenting support
- Housing
- Police, probation, courts
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- Employment, education and training

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Families
Self-help groups
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Recovery communities
Faith organisations
Agencies work best together

**Councillors & Directors of Public Health**
Invest in services that work with drug treatment to support recovery and improve outcomes

**Police**
Promote drug treatment as a proven way to reduce crime and make communities safer

**Children & family services**
Work with drug treatment services to identify and support vulnerable children and families

**Housing**
Provide housing and support to help recovering users stay off drugs for good

**Employment**
Link work programme, JCP, colleges and employers to help recovering drug users find jobs

**NHS**
Identify drug problems early and treat all drug users’ health needs in line with the NHS constitution

**Mental health**
Work with drug treatment services to identify and support vulnerable people
Find out more at www.nta.nhs.uk...