



**Change
Grow
Live**

Hepatitis C Impact Report

2022

Contents

Introduction	4
Hepatitis C testing and treatment	5
Impact	6
Working together to achieve micro-elimination	8
Collaboration and partnerships	9
Innovation	10
What people who use our services say	12

Our mission

Our mission is to help people change the direction of their lives, grow as individuals, and live life to its full potential.

Our whole person approach addresses all the factors that impact on individual health and wellbeing and contribute to strong and cohesive communities.





We commit to helping make Hepatitis C pathways accessible, inclusive and of the highest attainable quality. We will do this by ensuring that Hepatitis C elimination is an organisational priority from floor to board. The time to act is now.

Dr Prun Bijral
Medical Director
Change Grow Live

Introduction

As an organisation, we are fully committed to supporting the NHS England's goal of eliminating Hepatitis C as a major health concern in England.

Hepatitis disproportionately affects people receiving support from drug treatment services, and people often face barriers to getting the testing and treatment they need. Overcoming these barriers is an important part of helping us to address every part of a person's health and wellbeing throughout their journey.

During the past 12 months we have worked hard to recover from the overall impact the global pandemic had on testing and treatment pathways for Hepatitis C. Whilst it hasn't always been easy, we are proud to say that we have tested more people than ever before. The unwavering commitment from the people who work in our services has been phenomenal.

Thank you – we most certainly are stronger together!



Hepatitis C testing and treatment

A ground-breaking new approach to testing and treatment

In 2021, Change Grow Live became the lead provider of a ground-breaking partnership approach to Hepatitis treatment in North Yorkshire and Humber.

For the first time, drug treatment providers from across the region came together to share their expertise and deliver support directly to the people that need it. People receiving support from these providers now have the option to receive treatment directly from staff employed at their substance misuse service.

Traditionally, substance misuse services have carried out testing for hepatitis, but treatment was required to be carried out by a clinical team member from the NHS at the local treating hospital. Now, providers will be working in partnership with each other, the NHS and Hepatitis C trust so that staff at their services can provide treatment as part of an ongoing package of care.

The new treatment pathway was developed by NHS England with input from Change Grow Live. As the lead provider, we will continue to share our expertise in this area, including our blood-borne virus toolkit, treatment pathways, and specialist teams and workers.

Our Hull Renew service is the central hub for this new model, which also brings together **Changing Lives, Humankind, East Riding Trust, We Are With You**, and **Spectrum Community Health CIC**.



Hepatitis C testing and treatment



It's really powerful to see all these different providers aiming for the same endpoint: to eliminate hepatitis C as a threat to public health. That's been the golden thread: that we're all in this together to treat people.

We have a real opportunity here to pave the way for new ways of working and engaging with people. I'd like to think that other providers and healthcare professionals will look at the model we've put in place and see an opportunity to think differently about hepatitis C treatment.

Tracey Kemp
National Hepatitis C Strategy Lead
Change Grow Live

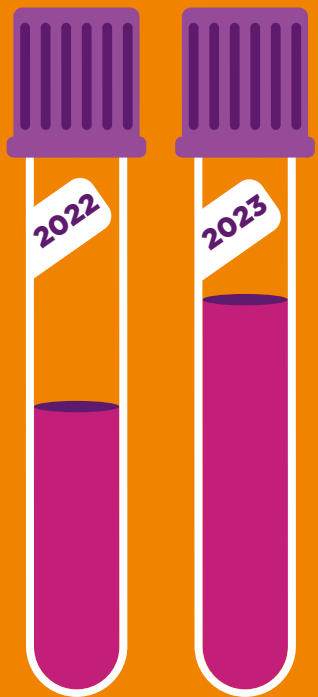


As we see people begin treatment through this new model, we will be using our learnings to recreate this approach in other parts of the country. By prioritising partnership working and sharing expertise and resources across the sector, we can support as many people as possible to be cured of hepatitis C.



Impact

Over the last year, this spirit of collaboration has helped our services to reach a number of major achievements.



25,235

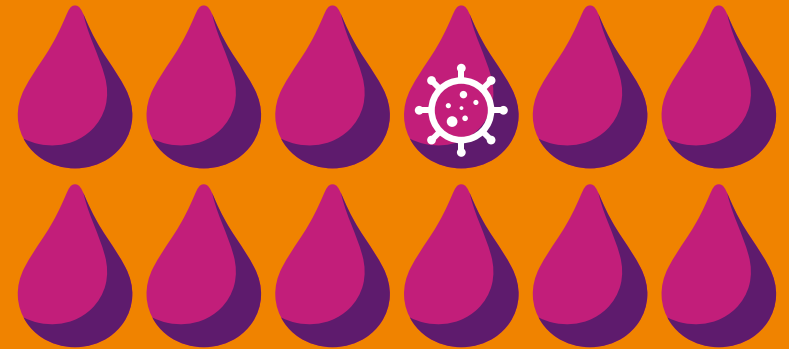
Hepatitis tests completed

138%

more tests than the previous year

1,620

people began treatment



1 in 12 people were positive for the Hepatitis C virus,
based on **1 in 9** in the previous year.

This means that whilst testing has significantly increased, **we are finding less people who are positive for the Hepatitis C virus.**

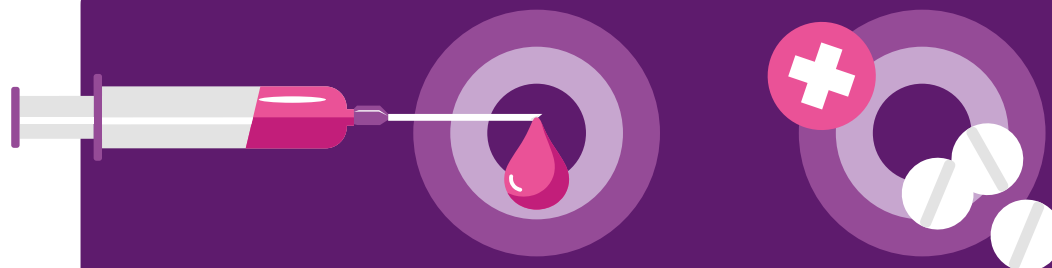
Working together to achieve micro-elimination

One of the most important Hepatitis milestones for our services is micro-elimination.

When we say a service has micro-eliminated Hepatitis C, that means it has reached these NHS targets:

- **100% of people using the service with a history of injecting have been offered a hepatitis C test.**
- **100% of people using the service with a history of injecting have been tested.**
- **90% of people with a history of injecting and identified as being at risk since their last test have been tested within the last 12 months.**
- **75% of people diagnosed with hepatitis C have started treatment.**

Please note, the criteria for micro-elimination changed from August 2022 and will be reflected in future data/reports.



Between 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022,

4 services
provided by Change Grow Live
**achieved these targets and
successfully micro-eliminated
Hepatitis C.**

Among the services to achieve micro-elimination was **Reading Drug and Alcohol Service**, who became **the first substance misuse service of its size nationally to reach this milestone**. They were soon joined by **West Kent Drug and Alcohol Wellbeing Service**, who were the **first multi-hub service from all providers in England to micro-eliminate hepatitis C**.

Collaboration and partnerships

Collaboration and partnership working play a crucial part in helping us to tackle Hepatitis C. By sharing our knowledge and expertise with other organisations, we can work towards the common goal of Hepatitis elimination and respond to the Dame Carol Black report's call for a more joined up approach to substance misuse treatment. The drug treatment service Hepatitis C provider forum has played a monumental role in bringing together organisations who all have the shared common goal of eliminating Hepatitis C as a major threat to public health.

Our achievements over the past year were aided by the support and collaboration of our partner organisations, including the Hepatitis C Trust, local NHS trusts and the Operational Delivery Networks. We simply could not do what we do without the support and input from others.

Extending our partnership with Gilead Sciences

Some of our most significant successes in tackling Hepatitis C have been made possible thanks to our partnership with Gilead Sciences.

In 2022 we extended this partnership for a further two years, to support our hepatitis elimination goals until March 2024.

We are immensely proud of the efforts from all those who we work with. Through this partnership we have seen more people than ever before being tested for Hepatitis C and have reached micro-elimination in numerous Change Grow Live services. By working in partnership with each other, we have developed new pathways and strategies that have had a huge impact on efforts to eliminate hepatitis C.



The additional 2 years funding demonstrates the unwavering commitment to the effort made so far to eliminate Hepatitis C.

Change Grow Live have developed a strong partnership with our partners at Gilead Sciences, one that will continue to go from strength to strength as we work towards the goal of eliminating the Hepatitis C virus.

Prun Bijral
Medical Director
Change Grow Live



Innovation

An outstanding approach to Hepatitis C pathways recognised in Coventry

In September 2021 the multi-organisation Hepatitis C project team won the Director of Public Health's Award for Outstanding Contribution in the city of Coventry.

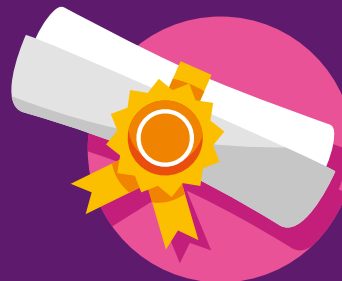
The team includes people from lots of different organisations, including Stacey Chambers from Coventry & Warwickshire hospital and Change Grow Live's Bess Curtis and Jackie Webley.

This is a huge celebration of everything the team has achieved, especially as they were nominated by the service's commissioner, Paul Hargrave. Paul has been impressed by the team's work and has been actively involved to support them.

During the first national lockdown in 2020, the team met virtually every week to make sure people were still getting important hepatitis C treatment.



Between March and June 2020, the service started 34 patients on treatment, while many other providers had to pause their treatment entirely. Since then, the team has kept up its push for testing, and managed to double the amount of non-clinical staff testing for Hepatitis C in the service.



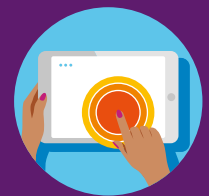
Funding awarded in Sussex for a NSP pharmacy testing initiative



In April 2022 the Sussex Hepatitis C pharmacy testing initiative went live.

This scheme aims to target those people who access local pharmacies for injecting equipment but do not engage with services, therefore one of the most at-risk group of people who will hugely benefit from Hepatitis C and harm reduction intervention by the specialist employed staff.

Launch of BBV E-Learning package



We were delighted to roll out a new BBV e-learning package for people working in our services. The new training provided an interactive learning experience that staff engaged with fantastically well.

Innovation

Bradford Hepatitis C Support Worker

In partnership with West Yorkshire Hepatitis C Operational Delivery Network, our New Directions Service deployed a new and dedicated role.

Our HCV Support Worker joined us in January 2021 as a proof-of-concept pilot. The objective of this exciting role was to bridge any gaps between the drug treatment service (DTS) and the NHS Trust providing treatment to individuals accessing Bradford New Directions.

Over the initial period of the role (January to March), we observed strong, early indications as to the scope and success the role can have. The HCV Support Worker devotes the additional time often needed, to target people who need treatment for Hepatitis C and can be difficult to engage.

As a result of the dedicated Hepatitis C role, the service has benefited from a re-invigorated sense of enthusiasm to push towards micro elimination, with Hepatitis C becoming hot topic throughout the team.



Investment from Lancashire & South Cumbria Operational Delivery Network

We were delighted when Lancashire & South Cumbria operational delivery network (ODN) provided funding to further support the success we have had collectively as a partnership in engaging people out in the community.

Funding was provided to recruit a dedicated van driver to support drive days, testing where required alongside much needed harm reduction advice/guidance.

We believe that meeting people where they are at provides better outcomes for the people who use our services, with this approach providing continued engagement by testing and treating people for Hepatitis C at their homes, local hostel etc.

What people who use our services say

Sarah*

Sarah attended Change Grow Live's Hull ReNew for support with her substance use and it was through engaging with her recovery worker that Sarah made some life changing decisions.

Here's what Sarah had to say about her experience.

I'd had Hep C for 11 years and I used to put it in a box in my brain and carry-on using drugs.

Then the pandemic hit, and I thought if I leave it another 10 years, it'll kill me. Elly referred me and rang when I had appointments. I have got two tablets left of my treatment and I feel so healthy.

I am 48 and I look 38 now. I urge everyone to get tested and treated. Why live with a virus that can be cured?

**name has been changed to protect the person's identity*

Believe in people

About Change Grow Live

We help people to change the direction of their lives,
grow as individuals, and live life to its full potential.

Find out more

W: changegrowlive.org

E: queries@cgl.org.uk

 [@changegrowlive](https://www.facebook.com/changegrowlive)

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Change Grow Live Registered Office: 3rd Floor, Tower Point, 44 North Road, Brighton BN1 1YR.
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