



**Change
Grow
Live**

Hepatitis C

Impact Report 2023

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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.

Thank you

Throughout the past year services have continued to go from strength to strength and supported more people than ever before in accessing testing and treatment for hepatitis C.

This work has been made possible by the unwavering support and contribution from many individuals and organisations. Because of this, we would like to thank:

- The people who access our services
- The people who work in and volunteer in our services
- The central hepatitis C team
Gilead Sciences
- NHS England and the operational delivery networks
- The Hepatitis C Trust
Our partners and other providers



A message from our Executive Medical Director Dr Prun Bijral

This year's impact report really captures the dedication and pragmatic effort made by so many towards meaningful goals in public health, and in the fight to eliminate hepatitis C.



The data presented here, underscoring an increase in testing and treatment, stands as evidence of what can be achieved with determination and collaboration from every corner of our community – service users, staff, volunteers, and partners.

There have been some real achievements, such as the strides towards micro-elimination achieved in several areas, as well as the genuine appreciation for the HSJ Partnership Awards, which, while heartening, are but milestones along a far longer path.

Looking ahead, our aim is clear:

Increase availability and access to testing and treatment that meet the needs of all.

We're committed to the elimination of hep C, and the support of all our partners is vital. Together, we'll make the difference that matters.

Hepatitis C

Testing & Treatment

Hepatitis C is the most common blood borne virus affecting people who inject drugs, which is why testing for the virus is essential for early detection.

Advances in treatment pathways have significantly improved outcomes for people who access our services. Over the past 12 months we have been part of the development of more effective treatment options for those people who are diagnosed with hepatitis C.

We are five years into NHS England's Hepatitis C Elimination Programme, which aims to eliminate hepatitis C as a major threat to public health by 2025. Despite the challenges we face in achieving this ambitious goal, we continue to see an unwavering commitment from the people who work and volunteer in

our services as well as from our partners. The commitment to partnership working is a fine example of how we can achieve so much more when we work together.

Providers have come together to share learnings, resources, and expertise, and nowhere is this commitment better demonstrated than in the award-winning work of the drug treatment services hep C provider forum, of which Change Grow Live is proud to be a member.



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A year in numbers

Testing and treatment for hepatitis C has remarkably transformed lives by preventing long-term liver damage and reducing the risk of transmission.

We are incredibly proud of our achievements in tackling hepatitis C in the last year.

From 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023:



35,202
people were tested
for hepatitis C and
other blood borne
viruses



39.5%
more tests were
carried out than
the previous year



1,528
people began
treatment
for hepatitis C

A year in numbers

One of the major milestones for our services is the calling of micro-elimination.

When we say a service has achieved micro-elimination, this means that it has reached a series of targets that have been set and agreed with NHS England and the drug treatment services hep C provider forum.

The targets are;

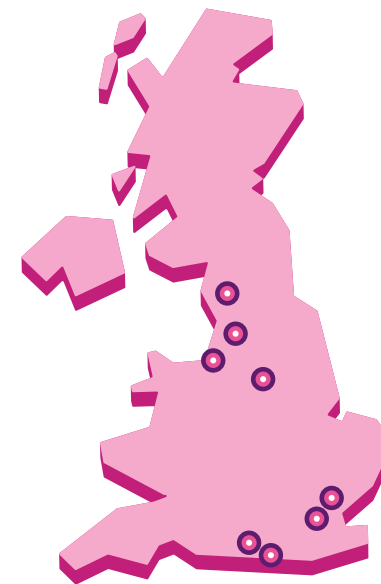
100% of people accessing structured treatment are offered a test

100% of people with a history of injecting to be tested (ever)

90% of people who are a known previous or current injector have a hep C test date from the past 12 months

90% of people who are positive for hepatitis C to commence treatment

Over the past year six of our services and two of our hubs have hit the major milestone of achieving micro-elimination:



Halton
East Lancashire
Warrington
Rotherham
Havering
Camden
Chichester
Bogner

Celebrating

our
collaboration
& partnerships

The success of NHS England's Hepatitis C Elimination Programme is a testament to the power of collaboration and partnerships.

We are proud to work alongside so many amazing partners and providers as we join force to achieve significant advancements in testing and treatment for hepatitis C.

In March 2023 the drug treatment hep C provider forum were delighted to be awarded the best healthcare analytics project at the HSJ Partnership Awards.

This award recognised our dedication to improving healthcare and effective collaboration with the NHS.





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Innovation

Data and analytics, the backbone of this phenomenal story!

When monitoring progress of the hepatitis C elimination programme, the role of data and analytics cannot be overlooked. Data and analytics provide us with crucial insights that help guide organisational strategy as well as service level planning.

At Change Grow Live, the development of the hepatitis C Tableau dashboard has enabled us to access a high-level overview

of where we are at with all things hepatitis C testing and treatment. This is accompanied by a level of more specialised, granular data that can help a service focus in and target those people who are most at risk.



Jeff Crouch, Director of information shares his thoughts...



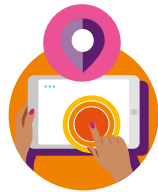
This is a leading example of using data for good by empowering our people with accessible information that genuinely saves lives. Over the past year, hep C dashboards on Tableau, which identify beneficiaries in need of interventions, are the second highest viewed, demonstrating our commitment to harm reduction and reducing health inequalities.

Innovation



The Blood Borne Virus (BBV) Toolkit

In September 2022, (followed by a 2nd iteration in January 2023) we launched our national BBV Toolkit. The toolkit serves as a widely accessible 'one stop shop' for all key information pertaining to our Blood Borne Virus and Hepatitis C Elimination workstreams: policies, processes, proformas, and guidance. Whilst key information existed prior to the development of the toolkit, an internal review of content highlighted the need to update in some areas, expand in others, and ultimately bring everything together into a comprehensive and streamlined format; reducing the time it takes to locate and utilise information/resources and facilitate consistency across our services.



Chemsex Guidance and Chemsex Intranet Page

In May 2022 (with iterations in December 2022 and March 2023) we launched our Chemsex Guidance and developed a designated page for chemsex information, on our intranet. Our National Harm Reduction Forum identifies chemsex as an area for development in regard to both internal and external information and guidance content.

Following a number of awareness raising initiatives in 2021 (including a guest speaker session by the late internationally renowned advocate David Stuart) at a National Harm Reduction Forum, and a live Chemsex Awareness and Training Session open to all staff within Change Grow Live, we compiled key information



and resources for on-going use, via our Chemsex Guidance.

This piece of work speaks to our dedication as an organisation to equality, diversity and inclusion; ensuring that we serve and reach everyone that we can. Our guidance and intranet page provide a wealth of information that our staff can access at any time, in order to help us all understand, and best support individuals involved in chemsex. Information and guidance made available includes relevant policies, core and enhanced levels of information, a focus on anti-stigma, wider training and awareness materials, and instructions on how to record interventions about chemsex.

Innovation



Liver surveillance

In 2022 NHS England's Cancer Programme launched Community Liver Health Checks pilots across the country. The pilots were aimed at identifying more people at risk of hepatoma/developing liver cancer and to ensure they were in appropriate surveillance programmes.

Working together with our NHS colleagues, clinics were established to complete fibro scans (a non-invasive scan which looks for liver stiffness) and the target group was people who are drinking alcohol to dangerous levels for long periods of time (now or in the past). Due to local Hepatology departments largely having excellent working relationships with our services due to our efforts in hep C, our national team was able to support.



An excellent example is Change Grow Live Croydon, where our staff have a strong partnership with St Georges Hospital and The Hep C Trust. The service established regular fibroscan clinics, and Change Grow Live staff worked this into the treatment pathway for those accessing our service and drinking alcohol excessively.

In the first 2 months of the pathway (June - August) the team had completed 226 scans. 15 were found to have a moderate score and 25 scored high.

Those not already under liver surveillance from their local Trust were referred and most were seen within a month for an ultrasound and liver appointment. Seven people were found to have cirrhosis, six from previous hep C infection. One was thought to have been caused by alcohol alone and would not have been detected without the pilot scheme.

Our work in hepatitis C elimination has promoted excellent working relationships with local Trusts and has provided opportunities to break down barriers and make treatment more accessible.



What people who use our services say:

My treatment for hep C has been fantastic! No side effects, nothing at all. Just one tablet a day to keep hep C away. I am so happy and grateful to the staff and the hep C team for their help. I never knew I was hep C positive until I was offered a test. I am so happy I am getting treatment. My advice to others would be to get tested, get treated and be free from hep C.

Susan from Hull.

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

 [changegrowlive.org](https://www.changegrowlive.org)

 queries@cgl.org.uk

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

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