

# **HOMELESSNESS**

## Introduction:

Sandyford works, in partnership with Health Services for Homelessness, to meet the sexual health needs of the homeless population.

The Sandyford Inclusion Team is responsible for providing in reach and selected outreach services to this client group. The team is highly aware of the complex physical, emotional and social needs of this client group, and work closely with other agencies and professionals providing services to the homeless.

## Services:

Sexual Health Clinics are nurse led and provide a wide selection of sexual and reproductive health care including contraception, cervical smears, sexual health screening and BBV testing.

## In reach clinic:

Monday and Friday mornings, and Wednesday afternoons: at the Homelessness Health Service at 55 Hunter Street. These are appointment clinics however, walk-in clients will be accommodated where possible.

Clients may require referral to Sandyford for more complex sexual & reproductive health needs when required.

#### **Sexual Health Outreach for Homeless:**

- A nurse provides a similar clinical service to residents in Chara House on Friday mornings.
- A limited clinical service is offered at Elder St, also on Friday mornings.
- Out reach Nurse attends the asylum Health Bridging Team premises as required.
- In addition, the team take referrals from other homelessness workers/services, and endeavour to facilitate access to Sandyford central or Hubs. Clients identifying as homeless should be seen in Urgent care that day, any client attending with a support worker should be automatically be fast tracked.

## **Links with Other Health Services for the Homeless:**

The Homeless Health Service at 55 Hunter Street is a purpose built unit incorporating the Homeless GP Practice, and provides care to the homeless and destitute not already registered with a GP.



The GP's provide outreach clinics to Chara House, Clyde Place, The Belgrove Hotel, Elder St and Kingston Halls on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. GP appointment clinics are available on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings. Patients can also access the GP drop-in clinics at Hunter St on Monday to Friday afternoons; the first 12 patients presenting between 1.30pm to 4pm will be seen.

There are a variety of other services, within the building, also contribute to meet the complex needs of homeless people include:

- Mental Health
- Physical Health Team
- Substance Misuse (Homeless Addiction Team)
- Homeless Children and Families
- Other Health Professionals improving health lifestyles and skills including podiatrists, Occupational Therapy, Podiatrist and Dietitian.
- The Asylum Health Bridging team are under the auspices of the Homeless health service but have their own premises at Clyde House in Govan.

## Staffing:

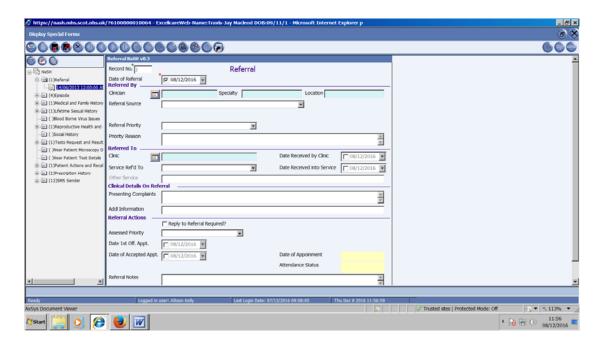
The sexual health team for the homeless comprises of Karen Johnston, nurse responsible for vulnerable adults within Sandyford InclusionTeam(SIT).

## **Referrals:**

(Referrals to the homelessness sexual health team are from a variety of sources):

- Self-referral to the drop-in sessions at Hunter Street
- Other health professionals working in homelessness services
- Other agencies, either by referral, or by contacts made at educational talks
- Other Sandyford staff refer homeless clients to the team to provide ongoing Support and follow-up
- The nursing staff for SIT will be happy to discuss your client's needs, and ensure that the most appropriate session and venue for appointment is arranged.
- The team can be contacted by calling the Team Secretary, on 0141 211 8610.
- Clients can be referred to the Inclusion Team using the referral form on NaSH (see form below):







# SEXUAL HEALTH TEAM FOR HOMELESSNESS PROTOCOL FOR NON ATTENDERS

There is a policy of pursuing DNA's, as there will often be complex reasons for non-attendance, and outstanding sexual health issues.

#### When Client Is Known To The Service:

- The client with be contacted by their preferred mode of contact documented on NaSH
- A further two appointments/recalls will be made for the client.
- If a client persistently fails to attend, a further appointment will not be made, but the client will be advised, where possible, that they are free to make another appointment whenever they feel able to attend.
- Information sharing is discussed with the client at first visit, and permission
  will be documented if given to convey information to the client via another
  worker. Most commonly this will be via a support worker or an addiction
  worker. The worker may be asked to pass on appointment or to support client
  to appointment if appropriate.
- If the client has given consent to share information with their general practitioner, information will then be passed to the general practitioner, so that it will be available if the client accesses the GP at a later date i.e. a positive Chlamydia result, which has been untreated.

#### When A Client Is New To The Service:

- The referring colleague will be informed that the client failed to attend the appointment
- If the client is still willing to attend a further appointment will be offered