

Glossary of terms

Abstinence

An approach to drug and alcohol treatment whereby people refrain from the use of any substances, this can even include prescribed medication. Organisations such as Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous require abstinence as part of their self-help ethos.

Capacity

Having 'capacity' means being able to make a decision on the basis of relevant information and communicating that decision to others, not necessarily verbally. People can have varying levels of capacity over time, and some people will have the capacity to make some decisions but not others. More information about capacity is on p.129.

CPA (Care Programme Approach)
Approach adopted by mental health services to provide support for people with long term needs for mental health care. A programme can be standard or enhanced (for people with more complex needs) and will include written plans which are reviewed by a named care coordinator.

Common Assessment**Framework (CAF)**

Widely used tool for assessing the needs of children at risk of harm. More information on p.124.

CPN (Community Psychiatric Nurse)

CPNs are fully trained staff or charge nurses who have had several years of experience working on psychiatric wards in hospitals. CPNs see people who are living in the community and help with medication, support people through periods of mental ill-health and are an important resource for carers and families.

DASH (Domestic abuse, stalking and harassment)

The DASH (otherwise commonly called the RIC) is a standard risk assessment tool used by the police, children's services and domestic violence services to identify survivors who are at high risk of further violence and abuse.

Detention

Being detained or 'sectioned' means being kept in hospital against your wishes if you are suffering from mental ill-health and pose a risk of harm to yourself or others. Someone

can be detained for assessment and treatment. More information can be found on p.149.

Detox

Detoxification or 'detox' involves stopping using alcohol or substances. Detox can include taking medication to prevent withdrawal symptoms as well as social support. People who want to detox should speak to the GP and/or local drug and alcohol treatment service before stopping as there are potential risks.

DTTO/DRR

Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTO) have been replaced by Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRR). This is a community based court order placed on people who are charged with drug related offences. Orders include testing, substitute prescribing (if required), regular drug testing, possible residential rehabilitation and/or attendance at structured day care.

Harm minimization/reduction

Harm minimization is an approach that aims to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences of alcohol and other

drugs by minimizing the harms and hazards of drug use for both the community and individual. This approach does not require abstinence.

IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors)

IDVAs are trained specialists that provide individual advocacy and support to survivors of domestic violence, usually those at highest risk of further harm. IDVAs represent their clients at the multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC). Contact your council's Community Safety Team for your nearest IDVA service.

ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisors)

ISVAs are victim-focused advocates that work with survivors of recent and historic serious sexual crimes. ISVAs are based in SARCs and voluntary sector violence against women services nationally. Contact your council's domestic violence coordinator to find out if there is an ISVA in your area.

MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements)
MAPPA refers to the arrangements

put in place to protect the public from serious harm by sexual and violent offenders. They require local criminal justice agencies and other bodies to work in partnership. MAPPA offenders are managed at different levels, with the majority falling under category 1 which requires information sharing but no multi-agency meetings

MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)
MARACs have been set up in most areas of the country and are usually coordinated by either the local Police Community Safety Unit or Domestic Violence Coordinator. The multi-agency meetings usually meet once a month with the aim of managing the most high risk domestic violence cases. See p.114 for more information.

Methadone

Methadone is a synthetic opiate manufactured for use as a painkiller and is prescribed as a substitute for heroin in the treatment of heroin addiction. It has similar effects to heroin but doesn't deliver the same degree of buzz or high as heroin.

Prescribing service

A prescribing service refers to being prescribed medication (methadone or buprenorphine) as a substitute for heroin. The service is usually run in partnership between a GP surgery and specialist drug service.

RIC (Risk identification checklist)
See DASH

Section 136

Under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983, the police have power to remove a person from a public place to a place of safety, e.g. hospital or police station, if they are acting in a way that poses a risk of harm to themselves because of mental ill-health.

Sectioning

See 'detention'

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)

There are 24 hour Sexual Assault Referral Centres throughout England, Wales and Scotland, which are specialist centres for people who have been raped or sexually assaulted in the past 12 months. They provide support to recover from the emotional and physical affects of the assault,

including medical care and forensic examination, counselling, psychotherapy, emergency contraception, treatment for STIs and advocacy. For a list of SARCs nationally, see: www.rapecrisis.org.uk/Referralcentres2.php.

Shared care

Shared care is a form of joint working. Drugs workers are (usually) located in GP surgeries and health centres to support GPs and their patients who present asking for help with an opiate dependency e.g. heroin, codeine or over-the-counter opiate painkillers, etc. Shared Care workers work with both GPs and patients to address a patient's dependency through pharmacological and therapeutic interventions

DIP (Drug Intervention Programme)

The DIP is a Government funded crime reduction initiative. DIP workers support their clients through the criminal justice process – from being arrested and testing positive for drug use at the police, through to court. DIP workers encourage people who use drugs and commit crime into treatment.

Structured day programme

Day programmes are common within drug and alcohol treatment services and offer structured non-residential support that usually last for 12 or more weeks and runs Monday to Friday. Day Programmes are a good way for someone to address drug and alcohol issues and still maintain other areas of their life like relationships with their children, education and even paid employment. Service users who are engaged in a day programme have the opportunity to develop new skills, to learn alongside peers through group work and social activities, build new support networks and increase individual confidence level.