

Partnership: Three Years On

funded by new funding from the Department of Health and Social Care to support the implementation of the 2021 government drug strategy, From Harm to Hope, a key aim of which is to reduce number of drug related deaths.

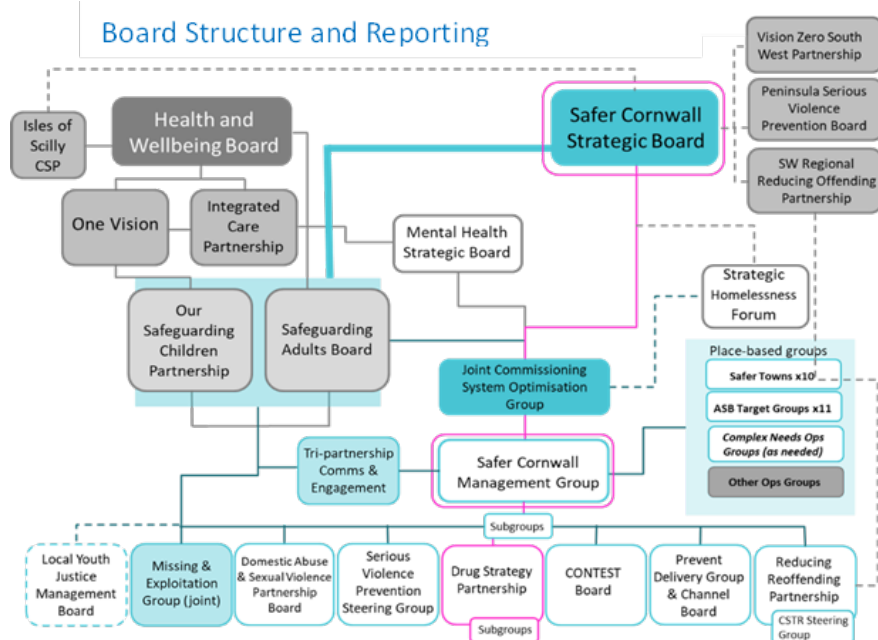
Local Priorities: top 3

- Reducing drug related deaths
- Treatment and support services
- Children – education programmes and outreach

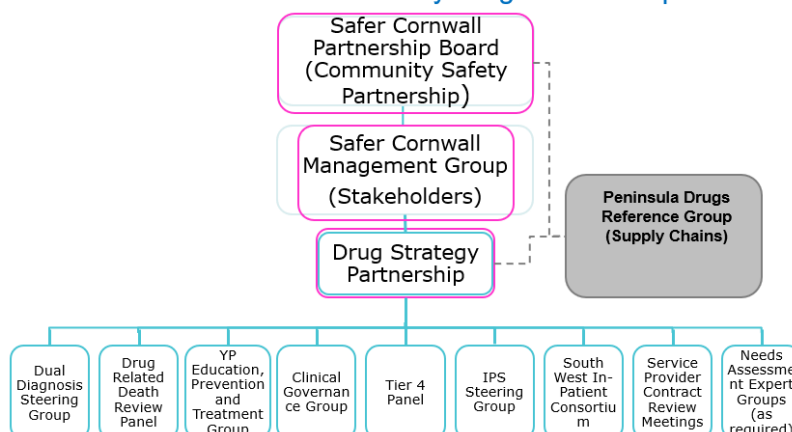
The Community Drugs Partnership

- We refreshed our [drugs needs assessment](#) to give us a strategic understanding of the needs of our population, available resources and gaps.
- Added value continues to be delivered through the alignment and tripartite relationship between the Community Safety Partnership, the Safeguarding Adults and Children's Boards.

Whole System Buy-in



Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Drugs Partnership



Children and Young People

In 2024/25:

- 180 CYPs were supported by drug/alcohol treatment for their own substance use.
- A further 120 CYPs were supported for either parent/carer substance use, ASB prevention or Criminal Justice System diversion.

Drug and Alcohol Schools Programme: From January 2024 to June 2025, sessions were delivered in 40 education settings (schools, colleges, Alternative provision Academies) to 17,151 students.

As a partnership we delivered a joint response to an increase in young people vaping synthetic cannabinoids producing tailored resources for professionals, parents/cares, young people and education settings. We worked with Public Health to make messaging clear on different approaches for adults and young people regarding vaping and smoking cessation.

Reducing Drug Harms

Drug Related Deaths

The annual [Drug Related Deaths](#) report for 2024 shares the stories of those whose deaths were drug related. The report is available on our [website along with reports from previous years](#).

Too many people still die from a drug-related in Cornwall. In 2023 there were:

- 42 deaths related to drugs and alcohol (31 men, 11 women)
- 2 deaths involving new synthetic opioids
- 17 deaths involving cocaine

In 2024, 30 drug and alcohol related deaths have been confirmed at inquest, with 27 more anticipated.

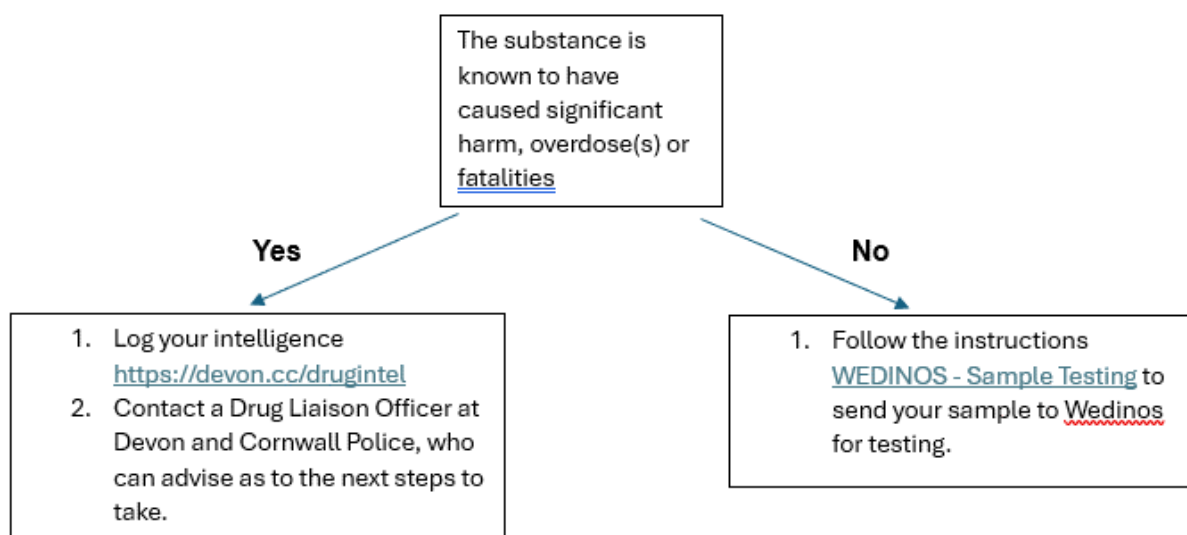
We continue to review and learn how we might improve our prevention, as a matter of priority. Priorities for 2025/26 will be agreed following finalisation of the 2024 DRD report.

Synthetic Opioids

We have created a [Synthetic Opioids Preparedness Plan](#) in relation to our response to synthetic opioids and a major incident.

We have rehearsed, with Emergency Management, for a major drug related incident as a result. This included colleagues from treatment, NHS, Police and the Ambulance service.

A more effective drug testing pathway has been established to ensure we can test these substances to create an earlier warnings system, for when they appear locally.



The Local Drug Information System was included in the response protocols, to ensure that information and alerts are cascaded effectively.

Promotion of the system to the public was a focus this year to ensure people knew how to report any intelligence related to drugs. There was also a focus on the responsibilities of named delegates in the cascade system for drug alerts, including holding a Lunch and Learn session with them and creation of a Terms of reference. The priorities for next year will be on further promotion to the public and training for those on the distribution list for alerts to ensure a consistent approach across the system.

Lived Experience & Recovery Communities

- Experts by Experience run the Kernow Recovery Communities as part of our approach for people with multiple vulnerabilities. The team have also aligned with the With You Lived Experience Workers to co-deliver services.
- There are currently locations in Truro, Falmouth and Penzance. As well as the newly opened site in St Austell.
- A range of activities are offered including photography, music, creative textiles and the option to just drop in for a chat.
- The KRC has a [dedicated website](#) and a Facebook page has been launched.
- KRC partnered with Tempo Time Credits as a reward recognition scheme for people investing in their recovery and volunteer time.
- A Christmas celebration was held including dinner, presents and festivities. This was open to all and was well-attended.
- A photography exhibition was held in Truro, displaying photographs from members of the KRC photography club. This was attended by the CEO and Senior Leadership Team of Cornwall Council and the Mayor of Truro.
- Recovery Month was celebrated with a range of activities including a trip to Newquay Zoo, sponsored by Tempo Time Credits. A social media campaign was run alongside the events.
- Hosted courses from Mind, Pentreath and Konnect Communities.

Kernow Recovery Community

Welcome to the Kernow Recovery Community

A safe space to explore your recovery



Open to all, accepting of all.



Treatment

Drug and Alcohol Treatment

- There are 3,712 adults in community treatment in Cornwall & Isles of Scilly in 2024/25
- A further 3,170 people access briefer help through online chat, telephone help, needle exchange, drop in and outreach.

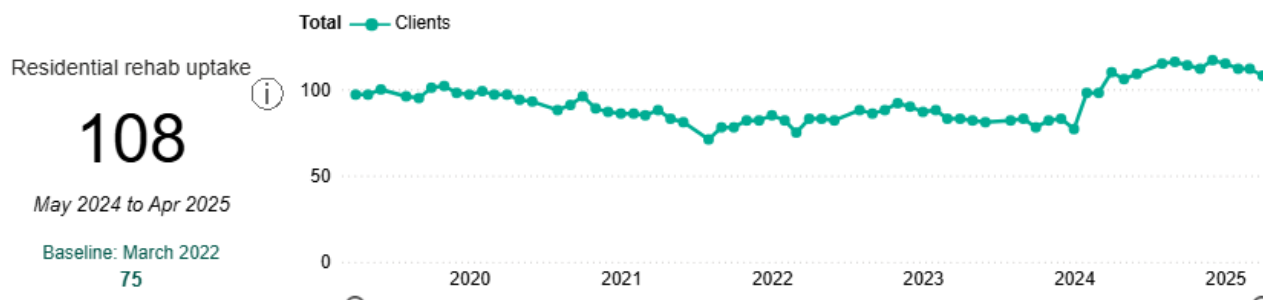
Inpatient and residential rehab

111 people required an inpatient detox at our local specialist unit at Bosence

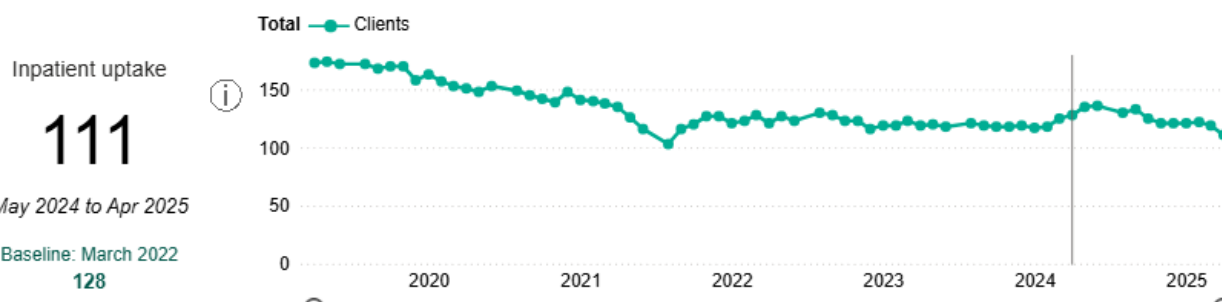
108 people required Residential Rehabilitation

We continue to work on exceeding national targets and performance for uptake of inpatient and residential rehab.

Cornwall & Isles of Scilly



Cornwall & Isles of Scilly



Continuity of Care (CoC)

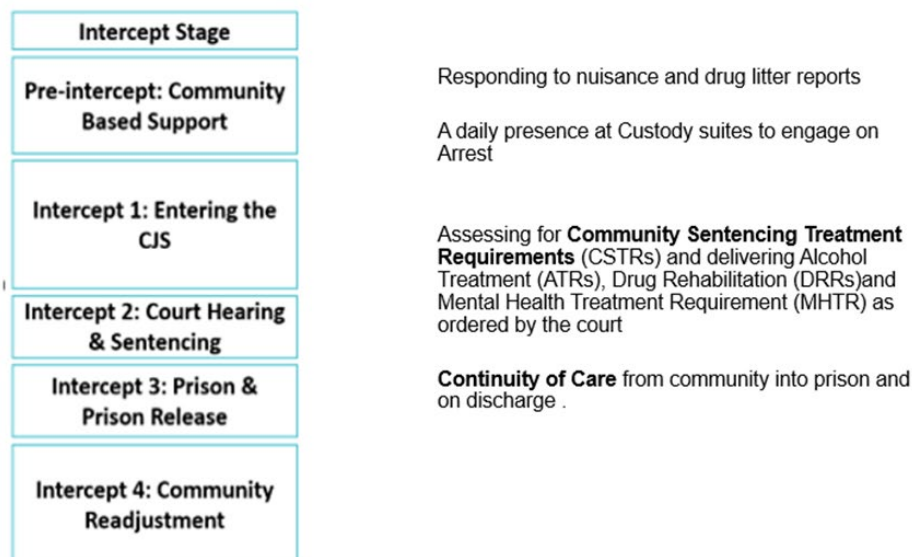
Those who leave prison are at increased risk of relapsing including overdose and drug related death. Continuity of care means people leaving prison with a substance treatment need are referred to community treatment pre-release and then receive a priority appointment with the community treatment provider within 3 weeks of release. This was a priority for the year and has resulted in Cornwall exceeding their target and national numbers.

The local community provider's Criminal Justice Team has continued close working with the prisons to provide continuity of care for all people leaving prison who are returning to Cornwall. Relationship building has been a focus over the last year which has helped contribute to the increase in Continuity of care numbers.

- The commissioning team continues to hold a local steering group with members from prisons and treatment services to identify the barriers and issues related to CoC.
- The community provider delivers regular in-reach within the local prisons.
- Inappropriate referrals have reduced.
- There is now more joint ownership of referrals.

All of this work has led to an increase in CoC for prison leavers, from 58% in 2024 to 63% in 2025, which is above national average of 57%).

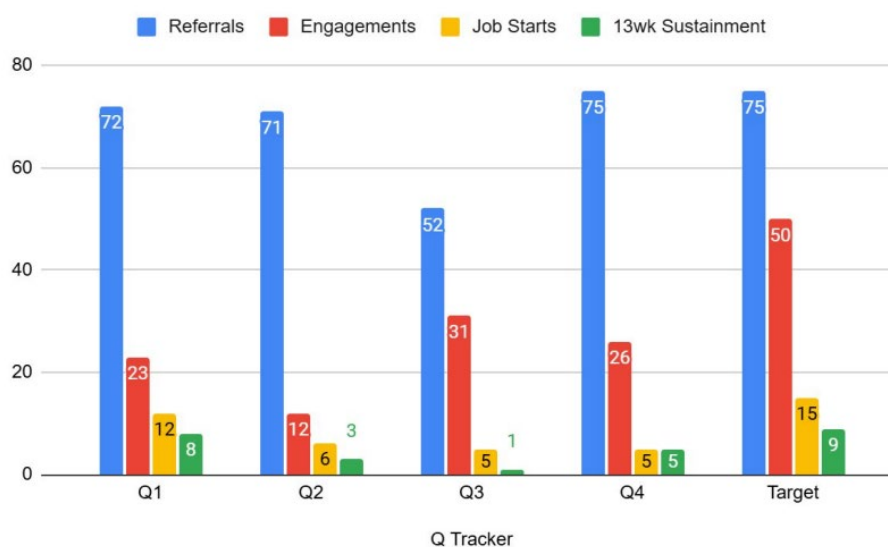
Access at Every Stage of the CJS



Individual Placement & Support (IPS) Employment Grant

- IPS is an employment support approach that offers intensive, individually tailored support to help people in treatment to choose and find the right job, with ongoing support for the employer and employee to help ensure the person sustains their employment.
- The distinguishing feature of IPS is that employment support is provided alongside clinical treatment.

Year Tracker as a team (Targets based on a team of 4 ES's)



Housing Support Grant

- Cornwall has a higher rate than nationally of households owed a statutory housing duty who also have an alcohol/drug dependency.
- 18% of those in treatment are in unsuitable or unstable accommodation.
- The grant is paying for more staff in housing and treatment including a dedicated team to support vulnerable women.

The grant brings together agencies to look at what can be done creatively to support a person to access and maintain suitable accommodation helping to maintain their engagement and improve progress in treatment. Creative use of personalised budgets included one individual purchasing small items for home décor to create a calm and relaxing space to focus on their wellbeing after leaving detox to reduce the chance of relapse.

Workforce development

Upskilling the workforce to work with multiple vulnerabilities

In 2024/25 we **delivered 254 training courses to 5,718 staff** (compared to 217 courses to 5,003 staff in 2023/24). Our training programme is hybrid offering both online and in-person training sessions for the majority of our courses. This is to support different learning styles and work around people's preferences.

Breakdown of Training Courses delivered

888	DASV Awareness e-learning (Cornwall Council staff only)	45	2x H.O.P.E. Cultural Competency and Intersectionality training (part of DASV Peninsula training programme)	254 courses delivered 5,718 staff trained	
137	13x Alcohol Information & Brief Advice (IBA) training - delivered by Healthy Cornwall	37	2x H.O.P.E. Honour Based Abuse training (part of DASV Peninsula training programme)		
10	1x Assessing Who Is Causing Harm training - delivered by Safer Futures	38	2x H.O.P.E. Anti Race Practice Training (part of the DASV Peninsula training programme)		
91	9x Basic Drug Awareness training (delivered in-person only)	138	12x Level 1 DASV Training (delivered by Safer Futures)		
58	4x Benzodiazepines and Gabanergics (incl. Ketamine and Nitrous) training	117	12x Level 2 DASV Training (delivered by Safer Futures)	19	1x Substance Misuse & Alcohol Retail Training (1 session delivered in-person with 14 bar staff, 5 people completed video training)
123	15x Bystander training (4 sessions for 16 Days of Action campaign) - delivered by Safer Futures	159	9x Level 2 DASV Training for NHS staff (delivered by Safer Futures)	10	1x Suicide First Aid session for Experts by Experience and Kernow Recovery Community (delivered by Healthy Cornwall)
24	4x Bystander Train the Trainer (1 session for 16 Days of Action campaign) - delivered by Safer Futures	144	16x Level 3 DASH Training (delivered by Safer Futures)	54	6x Supporting Effective Recovery Training
105	8x Cocaine, Crack and other Stimulants training	49	3x LGBT+ Awareness training (delivered by Intercom Trust)	53	4x Trauma Stabilisation training (delivered by Devon Integrated Care Board)
3	1x Conflict Resolution & Personal Safety training (organised with Neetside Centre for With You staff in Bude)	74	5x Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Rep Training	2	1x Understanding and working with Non-Suicidal Self Injury (NSSI) training (delivered by C&J Training)
102	11x Courageous Conversations training (delivered by Safer Futures)	84	7x Motivational Interviewing Training	15	2x Wake Up to Sleep: Sleep Awareness Workshops (delivered by Charlie Morley)
481	21x DASV Awareness Training for Managers (Cornwall Council Managers only - in-person and online)	28	2x Practical Management of PTSD Training	2	1x Working with Individuals with Disordered Eating and Eating Disorders training (delivered by C&J Training)
110	7x Dual Diagnosis (Substance Use & Mental Health) Training	12	1x Safeguarding in the local context of Substance Use Services webinar	13	1x Young People's Model for With You Adults Service with Phil Harris
56	8x Healthy Relationships Foundations Programme (delivered by Safer Futures)	84	6x Section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act and other key issues training	124	11x Young People's Substance Awareness & Screening Training (1 session delivered to Falmouth University staff)

Training feedback

"It was very good training. It will give me a tool to use with clients where alcohol may be adding to their mental health difficulties."
Delegate, Alcohol Information & Brief Advice

"This training has helped me understand why people take drugs and helped me signpost them to the correct services for support"
Delegate, Basic Drug Awareness

"Very knowledgeable, created an engaging environment on hard subjects if people do not deal with these situations or violence against women and girls in their personal or professional lives".
— Delegate, Mandatory DASV Managers Training

"I feel the content of the course was thought provoking and relevant to the subject topic which got the attendees involvement and understanding of the subject."
Delegate, CC DASV Managers Training

"Such amazing and hugely important work all your teams do, working with the most vulnerable and at-risk children in our society. Complex, challenging and emotionally traumatic work. Remarkable!"
Delegate, Trauma Informed Lunch and Learn

"I found the training both engaging and informative. [Trainer] is a brilliant trainer who captivates his audience, injects humour to what is a heavy-going topic and allows plenty of time in between for questions. [Trainer] knowledge is extensive, and I felt that if I did need to ask a question, there would be no judgement or expectation that I should know the answer. Kevin broke down what is complex drugs laws into easy-to-understand information, with examples of application to real life."
Delegate, Drugs and Premises: Section 8

"Dual Diagnosis is a complex subject and at times there was a lot of information to try to digest. To try to pick up a bit more knowledge than I had was my aim to gain from the course and I did that. As well as some practical tools to use in the field that may help a client through a situation."
Delegate, Dual Diagnosis

"I learned more in the first hour than I did in 20 years of being involved in the Licensed industry running pubs."
Delegate, Cocaine, Crack & other Stimulants

"I found the whole session very engaging, thought provoking and gained some useful tools in working with clients who have experienced trauma, in helping them to move forward with their lives."
Delegate, Practical Management of PTSD

"[Trainer]'s knowledge is immense, so is his understanding. He makes it so easy to learn. The training all links up and flows so well. The best! Thank you I hope I can bring this into the work that I do in order to be able to support my clients to the best I can".
Delegate, Motivational Interviewing

"I am better informed now about what drugs and risks are out there and how to approach young people to support them in a realistic way."
Delegate, Young People's Substance Awareness and Screening Training

"I carry out needs assessments for Adult Social Care and this training will help me to understand risks and what to do if a service user is experiencing domestic abuse."
Delegate, DASV Level 2

"I intend to apply my learning by validating the victims more than I already do and ensuring they have control over how they contact me when they feel most safe."
Delegate, DASV Level 1

"The trainer was absolutely fantastic. He managed to deliver a huge amount of information, while keeping everyone engaged and interested."
Delegate, Sedation & Dissociation: Benzos and other GABAnergics

"The best training, I have done in absolutely ages. I loved how the trainer presented. I never zoned out at all. It kept me hooked all the way through."
Delegate, DASV Level 3

"It has helped me to know how to frame questions to ask patients and how best to support them."
DASV Level 2 (NHS)

"[Trainer] made it easy to follow and gave space for questions. I have already started using some of the techniques and will definitely be doing my work differently, it's been really thought provoking. Thank You!"
Delegate, Supporting Effective Recovery

"I work with people that have trauma. This training has given me the confidence to speak with clients, make them feel safe and signpost to the correct services"
Delegate, Courageous Conversations

"I think I have more confidence now in calling out inappropriate behaviour and intervening if I feel someone is in danger."
Delegate, Bystander Training

"The whole training was brilliant, I loved the resources, videos and break down of the Healthy Relationships Programme and hearing about others shared experiences of clients."
Delegate, Healthy Relationships Foundations Programme Facilitator Skills

Priorities for the next year

- **Reducing drug and alcohol related deaths**, including promotion of the Local Drug Information System to increase reporting and rollout of increased Naloxone provision to support reducing drug related deaths
- Continuing to **improve the quality and effectiveness of Treatment** and treatment progress for individuals by prioritising improvements in mental health, employment and housing and reducing caseload sizes.
- **Improving pathways into treatment** and confidence in non-specialist agencies to identify, refer and work with those impacted by alcohol and drug dependency.
- Supporting the **Implementation of My Team Around Me**