

# Into the English void: A Dynamic Evolving Model of Outreach (DEMO)

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# Drug service delivery in England is typically delivered from:



A core service base – office building



Venues in the community – doctor's surgeries, community centres



Some via street outreach often with the aim of engagement but people often still need to attend offices / buildings to access some services eg prescribing interventions

# DEMO

- Aims to support people who don't use the traditional model typically offered within drug services
- Homeless, involved in street-based activity
- Complex care needs
- Often no previous or current contact with services
- Services have failed to achieve meaningful contact with the individual
- Lack of engagement is our problem not theirs!



# DEMO



Funded via Cranstoun Innovation Fund



18 month pilot project



Three days a week



Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Outreach Worker



Research evaluated by Queens University, Belfast



# DEMO: Meeting people where they are at

## Geographically:

- Outdoor spaces where people use drugs
- Begging spots
- Street sleeping spots

## Psychologically:

- Letting go of our expectations
- Care and support rather than treatment

## Why is this needed?

- Structural trauma
- Lack of money/transport
- Exhaustion/lack of food
- Day to day challenges/survival



# DEMO offer:

- Opportunities for engagement/ building relationships
- OST on-street prescribing – rapid initiation and restarts
- Health interventions
- Intense harm reduction interventions
- Injecting equipment and foil provision
- Naloxone provision
- Drinks, snacks, clothing, toiletries, bedding





# Addressing the health challenges

- Often have complex unaddressed health needs
- Dealing with acute and chronic conditions
- Able to prescribe other medications in an emergency
- Support to access primary and secondary health care and allied health professions – e.g. dentistry, opticians





# DEMO research evaluation

- 197 different individuals encountered over 18 months
- Of 110 who gave their names:  
72.9% male 27.1% female  
23 – 59 years of age average 40.1 years
- 42 interviews conducted by researcher
- Universally positive responses





# DEMO research evaluation

- Only 'negative' was that people interviewed wanted increased DEMO provision – more workers and more days/hours
- Some people were just seen once, others were worked with intensively e.g one individual had more than 90 health related interventions!



This is a group who want support

Support needs to be accessible and compassionate

Thank you

