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A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

The start of 2021 was a difficult period for the team, with the service experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19.

What was amazing to see was the strength of the service. The whole team pulled together to continue to support our clients during this very tough period.

We hope that with the easing of lockdown we will be able to invite families back to the service. One element that we have missed at Oxygen is being able to facilitate our family program for loved ones.



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

from the Oxygen Recovery team

WHAT'S NEW AT OXYGEN

Oxygen has moved to a new digital Electronic Medication System (E-Mars) as of March. This is to streamline our medication system and support the service going paperless.

We are working with a new NHS Psychiatrist and lead pharmacist to support our detoxifications and health care.

We are close to moving over to a new integrated case management system, which will again support our transition of going paperless and allow the team to work more effectively.

This month we have installed a new walk in shower downstairs and a new clinical room. An emerging theme and trend we've seen in recent times is the increase of complex health conditions for those coming to our services.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

We are pleased to be awarding our staff with their second pay rise this year, to show our appreciation of all the hard work and dedication during this last 12 months.

Our counselling service, **Oxygen Breathe**, has successfully supported over 30 clients in the last six months for low cost counselling.

All the team have been trained by Clive at the Terrence Higgins Trust on HIV Awareness and we are working closely with him to support our service.

In 2020 we took part in a research project with a Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Nursing at the University of Bedfordshire, to help develop assessment tools for working with clients who are addicted to NPS. The finding will be published in April 2021, with the service being mentioned in an upcoming research paper. The team will also be receiving training on how to use the assessment tools from the senior lecturer.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DRUGLINK

In December we welcomed Eve to the Oxygen family. Oxygen Eve is our newest three bed property in Dacorum - supporting female ex-offenders. Following the success of Oxygen Gateway, it was evidenced that there was a need for a female service. Our first clients arrived early December and we have been fully occupied since mid-January.

The need, and success, of Oxygen Gateway has been reflected in a recent publication from the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners. **'PCC's Making a Difference: Reducing Reoffending In Focus'** explores how PCC projects are creating safer communities by giving people in the criminal justice system the opportunity to change and the skills to rebuild their lives. Please let me know if you would like to read it (featuring Oxygen Gateway).



At the start of the pandemic we planned for a significant reduction in work for our Diversion team, assuming it would reduce as the country was shutting down. We were wrong. Diversion has never been busier - the team and their customer base have grown over the last year.

MEET A TEAM MEMBER

James Dent - Team Leader

James started with us as an Apprentice Recovery Worker in 2015 and has worked extremely hard to develop his career within the service. He went from an Apprentice to Recovery Worker and is now our Team leader (recently voted staff member of the month)

James is a trained therapist and is passionate about helping clients.



OXYGEN IN NUMBERS

14

clients have
completed detox

Oxygen Recovery
performance data
October – December 2020

7

clients have
completed rehab

3

clients have completed
second stage rehab

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