

THE IMPACT OF DEDICATED ROLES IN SERVICE HCV ELIMINATION EFFORTS

Poster #

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Background

- NHS England (NHSE) are seeking to achieve the elimination of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) by 2025, five years ahead of the World Health Organisation (WHO) target of 2030
- As the virus primarily affects people who inject drugs, a national programme has been developed to support the development and implementation of effective testing, referral and treatment pathways for those who access drug treatment services (DTS). This national programme involves contractual funding arrangements with NHS England, Gilead Sciences and drug and alcohol service providers in England, including Change, Grow, Live (CGL)

Objective

- To explore the impact of dedicated HCV specialist intervention roles on the rates of HCV testing, referral and treatment in drug and alcohol services

Methods

- Additional funding was agreed to support HCV Specialist Intervention Worker (HCV SIW) in 3 CGL services to improve HCV care and to help services get closer towards HCV micro-elimination
- Once successful HCV SIW were in post, they were responsible for developing and implementing service HCV strategies and improvement plans, including reviewing patient level data to ascertain where the person was on the HCV pathway, HCV testing and referral and developing patient specific engagement plans in collaboration with the clinical treatment team and partner agencies to ensure patients successfully completes treatment
- The HCV SIW was also responsible for training other staff in the service to ensure all staff had a good understanding of the risks of HCV and transmission, disease progression, how to conduct HCV tests, understanding HCV test results, how to refer for treatment using the local pathway and how to accurately record HCV activity data
- This model also included regular multi-stakeholder meetings with the local commissioner, NHS England, the Hepatitis C Trust, and the Operational Delivery Network (ODN), which is the clinical liver network responsible for delivering treatment to ensure all pathway partners were collaborating and communicating effectively

References:

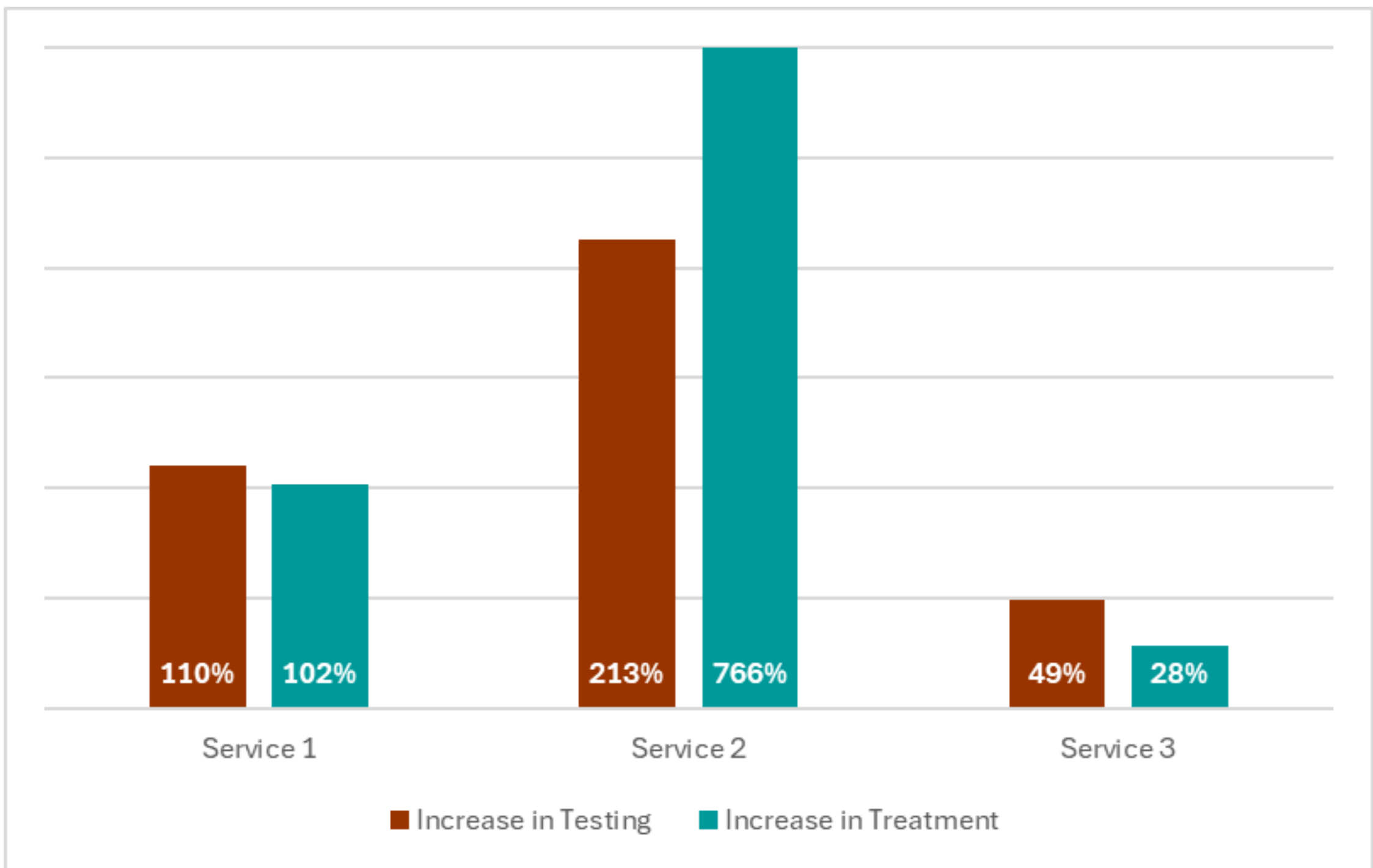
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Results

Figure 1. Impact on HCV Testing and Treatment acitivity^a



^aData presented are pooled from CGL internal data between 2019-2023

Conclusion

- Dedicated roles can provide leadership to drive increases in HCV testing, diagnosis and treatment**
- Embedding dedicated HCV lead roles in individual drug treatment services can accelerate progress to micro-elimination and may be considered by commissioners for future service specifications**

Disclosures:

These activities and roles have been developed and funded by Gilead Sciences Ltd in collaboration with representatives from Gilead-partnered DTS providers and The Hepatitis C Trust as part of the NHS England HCV Elimination Programme.

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