

Title of Report; Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards
Implementation in Midlothian

Report by Nick Clater (Head of Adult Services)

Report for Information

1 Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to note the report.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

This is an information report providing an update on the implementation of Medication Assisted Treatment Standards in Midlothian.

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3 Background/Main Body of Report

In June 2021, the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards were published by the Scottish Government.

A key aim of the standards is to place vulnerable people at the centre of our services and the importance of treating individuals with dignity and respect, being non-judgemental in all of our approaches.

This approach reflects the human rights based approach set out in Rights, respect and recovery: alcohol and drugs treatment strategy (2018).

The principles of access, choice and support were also key to the successful implementation.

The standards provide a framework to ensure that the provision of MAT is safe, effective, acceptable, accessible and person-centred to enable people and their families to benefit from high-quality treatment and care including psychological and social support.

The Scottish Government have required local partners and services to focus on the delivery of MAT Standards 1 to 5. These are to be fully implemented by April 2023. These are:

1. All people accessing services have the option to start MAT from the same day of presentation.
2. All people are supported to make an informed choice on what medication to use for MAT, and the appropriate dose.
3. All people at high risk of drug-related harm are proactively identified and offered support to commence or continue MAT.
4. All people are offered evidence based harm reduction at the point of MAT delivery.
5. All people will receive support to remain in treatment for as long as requested.

During 2022/23, work will also continue to embed Standard 7 (noted below):

7. All people have the option of MAT shared with Primary Care. This will be a significant challenge for Midlothian because of the low numbers of practices accepting people back from secondary care and the consistently large caseload at Number 11.

For the summary of all the standards and the detail about Standards 6, 8, 9 & 10, please click on the link below:

www.gov.scot/publications/medication-assisted-treatment-mat-standards-scotland-access-choice-support/

In order to support local areas to implement MAT Standards (initially 1-5 & 7), the Scottish Government has created a MAT Implementation Support Team (MIST).

A Midlothian and East Lothian Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (MELDAP) funding proposal was submitted to MIST with the purpose to

assist with the implementation of the MAT Standards. MELDAP received the funding and augmented the financial resource to allow recruitment of HSCP/3rd Sector staff that will focus on supporting people into treatment, increase the level of support and improve retention in services. These being key areas for intervention and prevention in relation to near fatal and fatal overdose.

As part of this work, Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership/MELDAP are required to develop an implementation plan to deliver all 10 standards and submit this to the Scottish Government. The plan has been developed with a range of MELDAP partners.

Please see Appendix B

The plan is in line with Scottish Government requirements and Governance arrangements for local oversight of progress against this plan will be managed by the following:

- Midlothian HSCP and MELDAP will co-ordinate monthly meetings of a new MAT implementation Group, membership of which will include all partners with responsibility for delivery of actions. This group will review progress against the agreed actions and will ratify a quarterly report which will highlight risks to delivery. Operational strategic managers will report on the implementation plan to Head of Service and Chief Officer monthly.
- This quarterly report will be presented to Midlothian H&SCP Senior Management Team for comment and to address any risks to delivery.
- The report will be passed to the two Chief Executives for agreement before being shared with the SG.

Timelines for each of the above will be established when the submission dates to the SG have been confirmed.

Ongoing experiential data gathering and widespread involvement of People with Lived Experience in the delivery of treatment and support, which includes their involvement in underpinning needs assessment work.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

For the initial phase of delivery of these standards there are no resource implications in this report as funding is in place as noted in section 3 of this report. The funding of just over £303,000 (from MIST/MELDAP) is to be used for the following recruitment of new staff.

	(£000's/ year)
Clinical Nurse Lead X 2	£127
Recovery practitioners x 2	£80
Band 6 x 1.8	£97

4.2 Digital

There are no digital implications in this report.

4.3 Risk

Please note the risks and mitigations on page 18 of Appendix A

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

This is in the process of being completed.

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Midlothian MAT Standards Implementation Plan

Appendix A

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

There are some links to the implementation of MAT standards work within the Single Midlothian Plan

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- ☒ Holistic Working
- ☐ Hub and Spoke
- ☐ Modern
- ☐ Sustainable
- ☐ Transformational
- ☒ Preventative
- ☐ Asset-based
- ☒ Continuous Improvement
- ☐ One size fits one
- ☐ None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- ☒ One Council Working with you, for you
- ☐ Preventative and Sustainable
- ☐ Efficient and Modern
- ☐ Innovative and Ambitious
- ☐ None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

Not applicable.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Midlothian compliance and performance with Scottish Government requirements to deliver MAT Standards as identified in the plan will be published.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The investment to deliver the MAT Standards in Midlothian will increase the number of staff in specialist Substance Use service provision. These staff will provide quick access to treatment and support to more people and improve the service offered to people affected by their and/or others substance use

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

By definition of delivering the MAT Standards, Midlothian will be increasing treatment and support to those in need of support. This provides opportunities to prevent substance use related harm and will provide more opportunities to engage in treatment and recovery.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.