

## **PAVING THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION, AND ITS LONGEVITY**

### **Authors:**

Kemp T<sup>1</sup>, Furlong P<sup>1</sup>, Robinson T<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Change Grow Live (CGL)

### **Background:**

Change Grow Live (CGL), a national UK provider of the drug treatment in England, considers Hepatitis C elimination as a core harm reduction priority. A CGL service situated in Northern England, is the lead provider of a multi drug treatment sector organisation model that is currently operating a pioneering Hepatitis C treatment service. Commissioned by our National Health Service (NHS), the model aims to serve a dual purpose; enhancing access to care and embedding an infrastructure for maintaining Hepatitis C treatment in the future.

### **Description of model of care/intervention:**

The Hepatitis C Treatment in Addiction Services model is underpinned by integrating access to Hepatitis C treatment, as a standard element of the drug treatment journey. With most drug treatment providers in England being established as 'patient finders', via routine Hepatitis C testing within services; bringing a treatment pathway into the drug treatment journey, allows individuals the opportunity to benefit from a robust, end to end Hepatitis C find and treat pathway.

### **Effectiveness:**

Working closely with critical partners (primarily the NHS), the first of its kind model seeks to reduce barriers and streamline access to care, by a concentrated pool of professionals. This ground-breaking model may transpire as the blueprint for widespread Hepatitis C treatment, in England, for individuals accessing drug treatment services. Typical pathways for treating Hepatitis C, primarily by the NHS Hepatitis Operational Delivery Networks, are not deemed secure beyond 2023, and a model such as this may be how we protect and sustain Hepatitis C elimination.

### **Conclusion and next steps:**

The model has been active since early 2022 and early indications are very encouraging. Working collaboratively with multiple drug treatment providers is a clear highlight, in relation to sharing and developing.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

*The conference collaborators recognise the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We also recognise the need for transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in publications and presentations.*