



Meeting of East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Integration Joint Board
Held on	14 August 2024
Agenda Item	10
Title	East Renfrewshire Medication Assisted Treatment Standards Update 2023-24
<p>Summary</p> <p>This report provides an update on the outcome of the latest national assessment of East Renfrewshire's progress towards the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards, a rigorous process requiring significant preparation of evidence of implementation.</p>	
Presented by	Julie Murray, Chief Officer
<p>Action Required</p> <p>The Integration Joint Board is asked to note and comment on Red/Amber/Green assessment achieved by East Renfrewshire in relation to Medication Assisted Treatment Standards 1 to 10.</p>	
<p>Directions</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Directions Required</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Directions to East Renfrewshire Council (ERC)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Directions to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Directions to both ERC and NHSGGC</p>	<p>Implications</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Finance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Policy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Workforce</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Equalities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Risk</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Legal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fairer Scotland Duty</p>

EAST RENFREWSHIRE INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD**14 August 2024****Report by Chief Officer****MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT STANDARDS UPDATE 2023-24****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The primary purpose of this report is to update on the outcome of the national assessment of East Renfrewshire's progress towards the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards, a rigorous process requiring significant preparation of evidence of implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Integration Joint Board is asked to note and comment on Red/Amber/Green assessment achieved by East Renfrewshire in relation to Medication Assisted Treatment Standards 1 to 5.

BACKGROUND

3. Implementing the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards is a key priority for supporting people with harmful opiate use, and is one of the key workstreams of the National Mission to reduce and prevent drug related deaths. They are a holistic set of standards that include rapid access to opiate substitution treatment, on the same day of presentation where possible, as well as improving access to harm reduction, mental health supports, and advocacy services. A summary of the ten Standards is attached in Annex 1 for Integration Joint Board members to note.
4. An East Renfrewshire MAT Standards Implementation Plan has been published which is available at [MAT Implementation Plan](#). Specific funding was allocated by the Scottish Government to increase staffing capacity and this has been achieved, including a full time pharmacist prescriber, enabling prescribing availability from Monday to Friday.
5. There is significant scrutiny across all Drugs Mission delivery but in particular the implementation of the MAT Standards. The implementation plans have been signed by the HSCP's Chief Officer and the Chief Executives of the NHS health board and local authority in accordance with the Ministerial Direction issued on 23 June 2022. Quarterly progress reports have been submitted to the Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy since September 2022.
6. At the Integration Joint Board meeting in June 2023, members were advised of the latest Red/Amber/Green assessment of East Renfrewshire's progress towards the MAT Standards. At that time, East Renfrewshire was assessed as Green for standards 1, 2, 3 and 5 (covering rapid access, informed choice, outreach and remaining in treatment). An amber rating was achieved for standard 4 on provision of harm reduction, such as injecting equipment provision and wound care. The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership was disappointed to receive this amber rating, however the necessary changes were implemented very quickly to fully meet the standard, resulting in a green status being achieved within the following weeks.

7. The national MIST team published a National Benchmarking Report in June 2023 which highlighted positive progress across Scotland in achieving the MAT Standards. Work has continued during 2023-24 and this report highlights the outcomes of this work.

REPORT





National Assessment of Progress on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards

8. Locally, the MAT implementation process has continued to be driven by a local Implementation Steering Group (membership including Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service management, Senior Manager Mental Health and Recovery Services, Data Analyst, Lead Planner and MAT Project Manager from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde). The working group met regularly during 2023-24 to progress and report on actions and review the evidence being gathered to demonstrate implementation. This group was supported throughout the last year by the national MAT Standards Implementation Support Team (MIST), hosted within Public Health Scotland. This support gave the opportunity to submit evidence for review prior to submission and discuss improvement areas.
9. All Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) areas have now been formally assessed and East Renfrewshire has achieved green ratings for all of Standards 1 to 10. The graphic below shows the progress made over the past three years.

MAT Standards Benchmarking by Reporting Year

Reporting Year	East Renfrewshire									
	MAT 1	MAT 2	MAT 3	MAT 4	MAT 5	MAT 6	MAT 7	MAT 8	MAT 9	MAT 10
2022	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2023	Green	Green	Provisional Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Provisional Amber	Amber	Provisional Amber	Provisional Amber
2024	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Provisional Green	Provisional Green	Provisional Green	Provisional Green	Provisional Green

RAG Colour Legend

-  provisional amber
-  amber
-  provisional green
-  green

*2022 MAT 6 TO MAT 10 were not assessed

10. The highest possible assessment for Standards 6-10 at the current time is “provisional green”. This reflects that the numerical measures for these standards have not yet been developed. The deadline for full implementation of standards 6 to 10 is 31 March 2025.
11. The MIST assessment focused on three areas: numerical evidence, process evidence and experiential evidence. East Renfrewshire’s numerical evidence demonstrated that appropriate and effective arrangements were in place to offer rapid access to Opiate Substitution Treatment, on the same day where clinically appropriate; informed choice of available substitute medications was available; assertive outreach was being carried out in the case of near fatal overdose or risk of one, with harm reduction provision available across the service.

12. In-depth feedback from seven people who use the service was gathered via interviews or small group discussions and 14 service provider interviews were completed. An in-depth analysis of findings was submitted, including the following highlights:
 - People using the service felt informed about treatment options and able to approach staff with any questions or concerns
 - People felt supported to attend appointments, and noted that staff were proactive in the case of non-attendance at appointments, or when they may be experiencing crisis, such as visiting people at home
 - While the service building has some associated stigma, people using the service feel it is warm and welcoming
 - While experiences of trauma are prevalent amongst people using services, feedback demonstrated that staff are compassionate and caring and people feel “comfortable and safe”

13. Feedback from staff providing the service demonstrated:
 - Staff have participated in a range of training courses and put into practice the skills developed including safety and stabilisation skills
 - Staff recognise the additional support people using services may need to attend regular appointments and provide this where required
 - Staff are aware of advocacy services and proactively offer advocacy referrals to service users
 - Wide knowledge of harm reduction supports offered within the service

14. Family members were invited to participate in “winter warmer” events run by the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service, with feedback demonstrating that family members welcomed being able to see the service where their loved one receives support. Feedback will also inform the future planning of events to encourage greater family involvement.

15. The experiential feedback has also identified areas for improvement including improving awareness and take-up of independent advocacy, further developing recovery supports within the Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service (ADRS) and increasing awareness of recovery supports in the community, positive promotion of the service to increase visibility and reduce stigma and continuing the work to improve joint working between ADRS and mental health services.

16. The levels of engagement achieved across all target groups demonstrated an improvement on 2022-23. Nevertheless, it is an aim of the MAT implementation programme to ensure continuous improvement in the quantity and quality of experiential feedback from all target groups as well as deliver on the areas for improvement.

17. Work will continue to maintain Standards 1-5 through review, monitoring and reporting, as well as progressing the implementation of MAT Standards 6-10 to achieve Green status by the deadline 31 March 2026. Standards 6-10 cover the provision of psychological supports, mental health support, trauma informed care, improved ability to offer MAT in primary care settings and the development of recovery networks.

18. Public Health Scotland published a national benchmarking report on implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards on 9 July 2024. This report shows significant progress at national level. In 2023/24, for MAT standards 1–5, 90% have been assessed as fully implemented. This is an increase from 66% in 2022/23 and 17% in 2021/22. For MAT standards 6–10, 91% were assessed as RAGB provisional green,

the highest possible score at the current time. This is an improvement from national performance in 2022-23 when 45% of areas were rated amber and 12% rated red (no evidence of implementation). The report shows that East Renfrewshire has kept pace with progress at national level.

19. The Integration Joint Board is also asked to note East Renfrewshire's performance against the national substance use treatment target set for the area, aimed at increasing the number of people in treatment for opiate dependency. East Renfrewshire was assigned a target of 14 new people starting Opiate Substitution Treatment (OST) and the area has now exceeded this target with 17 new people starting OST during the target period of 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024.

CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

20. The MAT Implementation Steering Group valued the time that service users gave to provide in-depth feedback on their experiences of Medication Assisted Treatment which greatly informed our evidence submission. Gathering evidence of service user experiences will continue in 2024-25 as well as providing feedback on how this evidence is being used to improve service provision.
21. Integration Joint Board members may note that MAT Standards 1-5 are heavily focused on the clinical provision of Medication Assisted Treatment and therefore relate in large part to the provision within the Alcohol and Drugs Recovery Service. While partnership working has been an integral part of implementation to date, working across statutory, third sector and lived experience groups will be even more critical in assuring the delivery of Standards 6-10. This work is already underway, in particular with advocacy services, housing, primary care, and community partners.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

22. There are no finance, workforce, risk, infrastructure, policy, legal or equality implications arising from this report.

DIRECTIONS

23. There are no directions arising as a result of this report.

CONCLUSIONS

24. Progress towards the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards reflects a significant amount of work across the Alcohol and Drugs Recovery Service and wider partners. This work will continue into the next phase of implementation of Standards 6 to 10.

Next Steps

25. The lead officers and Implementation Steering Group will continue to deliver on the MAT Standards as set out in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

26. The Integration Joint Board is asked to note and comment on Red/Amber/Green assessment achieved by East Renfrewshire in relation to Medication Assisted Treatment Standards 1 to 10.

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

National Benchmarking Report on Implementation of the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/national-benchmarking-report-on-implementation-of-the-medication-assisted-treatment-mat-standards/national-benchmarking-report-on-the-implementation-of-the-medication-assisted-treatment-mat-standards-scotland-202324-revised-18-july-2024/>

IJB 28.06.2023 - Medication Assisted Treatment Standards Update

https://eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/media/9244/IJB-Item-12-28-June-2023/pdf/IJB_Item_12_-_28_June_2023.pdf?m=1687363541583

Annex 1 – Medication Assisted Treatment Standards

- Standard 1:** All people accessing services have the option to start MAT from the same day of presentation.
- Standard 2:** All people are supported to make an informed choice on what medication to use for MAT, and the appropriate dose.
- Standard 3:** All people at high risk of drug-related harm are proactively identified and offered support to commence or continue MAT.
- Standard 4:** All people are offered evidence based harm reduction at the point of MAT delivery.
- Standard 5:** All people will receive support to remain in treatment for as long as requested.
- Standard 6:** The system that provides MAT is psychologically informed (tier 1); routinely delivers evidence-based low intensity psychosocial interventions (tier 2); and supports individuals to grow social networks.
- Standard 7:** All people have the option of MAT shared with Primary Care.
- Standard 8:** All people have access to independent advocacy and support for housing, welfare and income needs.
- Standard 9:** All people with co-occurring drug use and mental health difficulties can receive mental health care at the point of MAT delivery.
- Standard 10:** All people receive trauma informed care.

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