**Dundee Public Social Partnership**

**Tests of change proposal – Supporting hard to reach populations transitioning through services in Dundee**

**Background**

Hillcrest Futures currently provides a one to one service to young people 12-18 living in Dundee and who are affected by substance use. In last 6 months there have been 13 referrals that did not fit the criteria of the service due primarily to the age of referral i.e. 19-25

We recognise that for some people adult services don’t always fit and young peoples services criteria does not always fit the needs.

We have spoken to local partners Transform, Action for Children and NHS young people’s health and wellbeing and Adult Drug treatment services who agree that there is a need for increased support for this population.

**There are several drivers behind this proposal:**

Hillcrest Futures Staff have met with some individuals through our outreach work into local hostels and have identified a gap in support for’ young adults’ aged 18-25 transitioning through support services such as drug treatment, homelessness and mental health services.

A meeting with NHS Integrated Substance Misuse Service identified where individuals have not engage with either young peoples or adult services. An agreement to work in partnership to address this issue by having staff time to focus on this group that can often be hard to reach and vulnerable due their age.

**Proposal**

Hillcrest Futures propose to work alongside colleagues from NHS Integrated Substance Misuse service as well as any other service who are supporting this population to provide a service to those people aged 18-25 and transitioning between young people and adult service’s. People being supported will be experiencing drug and alcohol problems and are disengaged from support, there will be issues around mental health and well being given the rise during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Some of these individuals are residing in local homelessness hostels and in supported accommodation which indicates that they have little or no family support, therefore staff will have to collaborate effectively with Housing First staff teams and Positive Steps to ensure those most vulnerable and isolated are offered this support.

**Outputs**

* Offer joint assessments to find most suitable and appropriate service
* Dedicated staff time to address transitioning issues
* Liaise with Housing First and Homelessness Services to provide partnership drop ins targeting at risk groups within these settings.

**Outcomes**

* Numbers of people being supported 18-25
* Number of joint working cases with this group
* Number of people supported onto positive destination
* Number of people trained in overdose awareness and supplied with naloxone
* Number of people supported to a positive destination

**Recommendations**

Provide meaningful interventions to improve the quality of life for young adults transitioning between services, helping to maintain positive links with community based groups to encourage participation and involvement in order to challenge stigmas and break down barriers of progression.

Working in partnership with key stakeholders from all sectors we would aim to reconnect people to a full range of community supports that would encourage better use of time and offer diversionary programs.

Quarterly reviews will ensure best practice is being adhered to as well ensuring that this method of support is the most appropriate intervention for the individual.

Provided feedback to PSP steering group on the impact of this approach