

Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Training

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Commissioning is a term that is widely used but sometimes less well understood. It has been defined as [by the NHS]:

“Commissioning is the process of assessing needs, planning and prioritising, purchasing and monitoring health services, to get the best health outcomes.”

As such it is a much broader process than procurement, with which it is sometimes confused. The commissioning of drug and alcohol services is seen as key to the delivery of the national drug strategy. This has been recognised in the Dame Carol Black Review, “from harm to hope” the 10 year national drug strategy and in the commissioning standards.

This training is designed as an introduction for those coming into the commissioning of drug and alcohol treatment who are:

- New to commissioning
- Experienced commissioners new to drug and alcohol treatment
- Managers in treatment provider organisations who work with commissioners and who would benefit for an understanding of the commissioning process

Dame Carol Black wrote [in the forward to part 2]:

“local authorities must be required to work with wider health, employment support, housing and criminal justice partners to develop joint commissioning plans and be held to account for these plans and their outcomes.”

Many local authorities do not commission the full range of services required and there are important gaps in provision, such as suitable treatment services for non-opiate users.”

And in the introduction she wrote

“Commissioning has been fragmented, with little accountability for outcomes. And partnerships between local authorities, health, housing, employment support and criminal justice agencies have deteriorated.”

The commissioning standards state:

Standard 1.2: strategic and commissioning capacity and competence:

3. Strategic and commissioning leads are provided with protected learning time to maintain and develop their specialist knowledge. This could include subjects such as alcohol and drug harm, treatment and recovery, and their understanding of the health and social care system and how it can provide effective support and treatment to people affected by problem alcohol and drug use.

And the national drug strategy requires [p36]:

“adequate commissioning and co-ordinator capacity in every local authority”

Our 70 minute interactive E-Learning package will guide you through the following topics:

- An introduction to Drug and Alcohol Commissioning
- Different types of Contracts
- Policy Framework for commissioning drug treatment
- Drug and Alcohol Treatment

Training can be accessed at a pace to suit you with a wide range of resources for further reading.

Training written and developed by Generis with input from Key professionals in the field.