

# DRUG & ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Reducing Harm | Promoting Recovery

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Date: 24<sup>TH</sup> January 2017

Dear Dr Carlyon,

## **Re: Regulation 28 report Mr Robert Lloyd**

I am writing in my capacity as commissioner of alcohol and drug treatment services for Cornwall & Isles of Scilly, in response to your letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016, issuing a Regulation 28 report regarding the death of Mr Robert Lloyd 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

Your report asked me to review the provision of support to dependent drinkers on the Isles of Scilly with a view to preventing future deaths.

Before I do so, I would like to say how sad we were to learn of Robert's death.

It had already been recognised that it was far too challenging for individuals to secure sufficient help on the islands with drug and alcohol problems and we were engaged in a review process, with the islands, to ascertain how best we all might meet peoples' needs within the available resources.

CIOS DAAT committed to undertaking a needs assessment with IOS during 2016-17. A member of our team has been working with the Council for the Isles of Scilly, health partners, the police and Addaction to identify ways in which we could all improve provision. Initial work has included interviews with key health and social care personnel, staff working in housing, licensing, school and police. The public survey conducted in conjunction with IOS Healthwatch received more than 30 responses. Feedback and anecdote estimate high prevalence of problematic drinking on IOS with a degree of disruption to the community including anti-social behaviour and visible health burdens (see attached report update October 2016).

In addition, a joint improvement plan is in place with Addaction, the commissioned provider of specialist drug and alcohol treatment services for IOS

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(also attached), who had also produced a report looking at service delivery to the islands.

Both reports support the view that the community needs more support and a **more visible therapeutic presence on the islands** to encourage more islanders to access advice, information and treatment for alcohol and drug dependency.

A new Adults Recovery Co-ordinator has been appointed, with a brief to be more proactive. He has commenced **fortnightly visits** to the islands. He will also have **back/replacement cover for sickness and annual leave**, will establish **a regular AA meeting on the islands**, to replace the need for islanders having to travel to the mainland for this, and provide **support for affected others** (families and friends).

YZUP continue to provide support and advice for families and young people.

However, there continue to be very low numbers engaging by comparison to the level of need described and the purpose of a stakeholder meeting is to explore means of more assertively identifying and engaging those who would benefit from earlier help. There is also always the challenge of delivery from the mainland when the weather obstructs. Therefore, a longer term view has been to train a wider range of professionals and residents to be better able to support people with dependency issues on the islands.

In summary response:

1. The contract we hold with Addaction requires a minimum of **fortnightly island visits** in 2017-18. This to deliver interventions which will include face-to face contact with the Recovery Co-ordinator; a drop-in session; IOS specific resources; access to both home detox and community hospital detox; appropriate prescribing for medical problems; access to volunteer supporters; and group therapy. Visits can be supported, but not replaced, by Skype. **Cover will be made available for any sickness or annual leave**. Some of these services will be made available on the off islands, but this has yet to be worked up.
2. An **AA and NA meeting will be delivered on the islands** rather than having to transport people to the mainland for this purpose.
3. Where there has been a hospital admission on the mainland, **RCHT Alcohol Liaison Team have agreed a joint protocol** to contact the designated Addaction Recovery Coordinator for the islands to facilitate a referral for anyone admitted who is not engaged in community treatment, into treatment, once discharged.
4. **Multi-agency professionals meetings** will identify individuals to assertively engage in treatment and support that engagement

