

**PLEASE NOTE THESE PLANS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE – CHANGES WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO ALL SITES**

This plan will be implemented in line with wider NHS Tayside contingency and compliments the contingency planning arrangements for substance use services across the three Health and Social Care Partnerships.

The evolving situation with COVID-19 has the potential to impact clients who use injecting equipment provision (IEP) services and staff that deliver IEP services. These clients are deemed as vulnerable to COVID 19 infection and subsequent serious harm including premature death.

IEP is considered to be essential provision and the actions described within this contingency plan seek to mitigate against complete closure of all sites and to ensure a minimum delivery of IEP continues in each of our three localities. The maximum acceptable service disruption (complete closure of all sites) would be acceptable for up to 5 days. Thereafter provision of clean injecting equipment would have to be re-established using alternative mechanisms.

Following the Government restrictions on movement we have established a **Postal IEP Service** to supplement the reduced provision in Cairn Centre, Dundee, Drumhar Health Centre, Perth and Community Pharmacies. The service will go live from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020.

The Postal IEP Service, including naloxone kits is being delivered by Hillcrest Futures and an additional postal naloxone service being provided by We Are With You (formerly Addaction). Clients can access the service by calling:

- Hillcrest Futures on 01382 200532 (Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm)
- We Are With You on 07760755673 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

Clients can also order equipment online at [www.sexualhealthtayside.org/blood-borne-viruses/harm-reduction/](http://www.sexualhealthtayside.org/blood-borne-viruses/harm-reduction/) or by typing [bit.ly/TaysideIEP](http://bit.ly/TaysideIEP)

**The remainder of this document considers other aspects of contingency planning for IEP sites.**

**STOCK**

All IEP services should ensure that they have sufficient stock in the event of supply disruption. It is suggested that 4-6 weeks stock is held of essential items:

- 1ml fixed/2ml/1ml/blue/green/orange
- Alcohol wipes
- Citric
- Water for injecting
- Personal sharps bins

Services should also consider the number of large sharps bins they can hold (for returns), should there be an interruption in NHS collections.

Clients should be encouraged to take enough equipment to ensure they have clean equipment for every injection should they be required to self-isolate (up to 14 days). Secondary distribution, or the collection of equipment on behalf of someone else, continues to be available at all IEP services.

If a service runs out of stock and is unable to obtain more through normal ordering processes, contact should be made with the Harm Reduction Centre at Cairn Centre, Dundee. The team will advise if stock can be re-distributed from other services.

Name	Role	Email	Telephone
Pauline Cunningham	Harm Reduction Administrator	<a href="mailto:pauline.cunningham@nhs.net">pauline.cunningham@nhs.net</a>	01382 204248
Fiona Holt	Needle Exchange Manager	<a href="mailto:fholt@hillcrestfutures.org.uk">fholt@hillcrestfutures.org.uk</a>	01382 200532
Meggan Foulis	Senior Pharmacy Technician	<a href="mailto:megganfoulis@nhs.net">megganfoulis@nhs.net</a>	07814 763332

### ENHANCED IEP SERVICES PROVIDED BY HILLCREST FUTURES

Hillcrest Futures currently deliver enhanced IEP services in Cairn Centre, Dundee and Drumhar Health Centre, Perth. A worker also provides support to existing IEP services in Angus.

#### Cairn Centre

For the purposes of IEP service delivery, **the Cairn Centre is considered an essential site in Dundee**. All mitigating actions will be taken to ensure maximum provision of service in a safe manner for clients and staff. IEP services are currently provided from the Cairn Centre Monday to Friday and for a limited time on Sundays. Opening hours may be subject to change during an outbreak and will be negotiated as required between Hillcrest Futures and NHS Tayside.

Hillcrest Futures have a business continuity plan and do not anticipate closure of the Cairn Centre IEP due to COVID-19, unless this is temporary for cleaning and disinfecting. They have a pool of staff that can be called upon to deliver IEP across Tayside. Hillcrest Futures staff are fully aware of infection control procedures and are continuing to clean and disinfect the harm reduction centre as well as providing hand sanitiser for use of staff and service users on entering the building. In addition NHS Tayside Harm Reduction Specialist Nurses are based at the Cairn Centre and will be available to support IEP service if required (unless they are called to other essential duties by NHS Tayside in relation to COVID-19).

#### Drumhar Health Centre

Hillcrest Futures operate an IEP service from Drumhar Health Centre in Perth with support from the Harm Reduction Nursing Team. Drumhar is a NHS site and is subject to contingency plans developed by NHS Tayside. For the purposes of IEP service delivery, **Drumhar is considered an essential site** and all mitigating actions will be taken to ensure maximum provision of service in a safe manner for clients and staff. **Reduced opening hours have been implemented Monday to Friday 10.30am until 3.30pm**. The building has implemented an appointment only access policy therefore clients seeking IEP will be escorted by a member of Hillcrest staff or by a harm reduction nurse. Opening hours may be subject to change during an outbreak and will be negotiated as required between Hillcrest Futures and NHS Tayside. If Drumhar Health Centre building is closed we will seek an alternative location in Perth.

Hillcrest Futures have a pool of staff that can provide IEP services from Drumhar however should the Harm Reduction Nurses be unable to provide support; this service will be vulnerable as Hillcrest will be required to provide two members of staff.

#### Angus

Hillcrest Futures do not currently have an IEP base in Angus. The Angus worker will support other IEP services and postal IEP.

### CORE IEP SERVICES DELIVERED IN COMMUNITY PHARMACIES

IEP services are provided in fifteen community pharmacies spread across Tayside. IEP service in community pharmacies is considered non essential and as such community pharmacy staff may be retracted into essential service delivery as appropriate.

## **COVID-19 CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR INJECTING EQUIPMENT PROVISION (IEP)**

Community Pharmacy contractors are subject to their own business continuity plans however actions will be taken to maintain delivery of IEP as far as possible, particularly in rural areas where travel to a central site will be difficult.

In the event of a pharmacy closure, contractors will be expected to try to move stock to another IEP site as part of a retraction.

Each pharmacy contractor has been requested to provide a plan in relation to delivery of OST – minimum one pharmacy in each area. In the unlikely event of many pharmacy closures IEP services will be difficult to accommodate. In this event pharmacy contractors will be advised that delivery of IEP can cease and provision will be centralised to Cairn Centre in Dundee, Drumhar in Perth and postal IEP service.

### **CORE IEP SERVICES DELIVERED IN ANGUS MINOR ILLNESS AND INJURY UNITS HAVE CEASED**

The Minor Illness and Injury Units (MIIUs) at Whitehills, Forfar, Arbroath Infirmary and Montrose **are not able to provide IEP** during the outbreak.

### **ADVICE FOR CLIENTS WHO REQUIRE SELF-ISOLATING**

Secondary distribution, or the collection of equipment on behalf of someone else, continues to be available at all IEP services.

- If self-isolation is required clients should nominate someone to collect their injecting equipment for them and take to their home
- They should be encouraged to take enough equipment to ensure the client has clean equipment for every injection for up to 14 days

### **CURTAILMENT OF MOVEMENT**

Clients will be provided with emergency advice on cleaning and re-use of equipment and ways to minimise the risk of sharing with others during periods of significant curtailment of movement and advised to use the postal IEP service.

### **COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

This contingency plan will be communicated to all IEP services via email and hard copy.

Harm Reduction advice for clients will be provided to all IEP services by NHS Tayside via email and hard copy. The “News” section of NEO will be used to update services on any site closures or changes to advice.

Substance Misuse Service leads will be notified of availability of IEP and harm reduction advice to make sure that staff can support clients and disseminate this essential information.

### **HARM REDUCTION MESSAGING**

All IEP services should provide advice for safer injecting, hand washing, naloxone supply and be aware of other sites that clients can access should there be any site closures.

Crew 2000 have useful advice for people who are using drugs regarding COVID-19. This can be accessed here: <https://www.crew.scot/coronavirus-general-hygiene-tips/>

An information sheet for staff and a leaflet for clients can be found here: [www.sexualhealthtayside.org/professionals/resources/harm-reduction-resources/](http://www.sexualhealthtayside.org/professionals/resources/harm-reduction-resources/)

Printed copies can be obtained by emailing [bbvmcn.tayside@nhs.net](mailto:bbvmcn.tayside@nhs.net)

If you have any concerns or queries regarding IEP services please contact:

Karen Melville – [Karen.melville@nhs.net](mailto:Karen.melville@nhs.net) 07818 260249

Donna Thain – [donnathain@nhs.net](mailto:donnathain@nhs.net) 07764 763321

Sarah Donaldson – [sahrdonaldson@nhs.net](mailto:sahrdonaldson@nhs.net) 07967 323195

Meggan Foulis – [megganfoulis@nhs.net](mailto:megganfoulis@nhs.net) 07814 763332