

Trust uses latest technology to improve patient services

Gateshead PCT chooses Substance Misuse solution

GATESHEAD Alcohol and Drug Services are implementing new CareNotes solutions that will support their work with patients being treated for Substance Misuse.

CareNotes Substance Misuse will be used by around 60 staff members across a variety of NHS sites in Gateshead.

Staff will be able to use the web-based solution for a full range of their work including:

- Fully care planned case management.
- Prescribing for controlled drugs such as Methadone and Buprenorphine.
- Batch printing of prescriptions.
- Harm reduction interventions including needle exchange.
- NDTMS reporting.

The new solution, which is due to be rolled out during May 2007, accurately records the entire care process – allowing 'real time' information to be available to clinicians, potentially from any NHS site.

CareNotes Substance Misuse will also facilitate accurate and efficient reporting, providing service managers with timely information.

Ben Seale, Senior Information Analyst for Gateshead Drug and Alcohol Team, said: "We chose CareNotes Substance Misuse because it represents a cost effective solution, covering a broad spectrum of services and specialities. We were particularly impressed with its strong prescribing

Report by NICOLA DUFTY

and general case management capabilities, robust reporting tools and secure needle exchange facilities."

David Hannam, of Strand Technology which developed CareNotes Substance Misuse, said: "Gateshead Alcohol and Drug Services are constituted of qualified nurses and social workers.

Easy to use

"They required a solution that was 'easy to use' and attuned to their needs – enabling them to continue to deliver a comprehensive and effective

treatment service for people experiencing problems with drug and alcohol dependencies."

CareNotes Substance Misuse was launched a year ago and provides the NHS and Drug and Alcohol Teams with an electronic solution – replacing pen and paper tasks.

It was developed in conjunction with clinicians and care professionals.

The solutions include a full range of assessment and outcome tools – from Triage through to Full Assessment and Standard Outcome Measures for Drug and Alcohol Teams.



Automating 'admin' to help front line care

MORE patients being treated for substance misuse can be encouraged back into NHS care – thanks to new **CareNotes Substance Misuse** solutions. The web-based solution

includes a specialist module to help Drug Actions Teams running needle exchange programmes. CareNotes Substance Misuse allows carers to move away from a paper-based work system and

automate administration tasks. Graham Phillips, Managing Director of Strand Technology, said: "This solution frees up staff time to deliver more front line care but it is also designed to

encourage more needle exchange users back into the care network process. It uses a small amount of data, but can help identify medical problems and can pave the way for early intervention of medical conditions."

Strand Technology Ltd
Operations
Xpdia
Cinnamon Park
Warrington
WA2 0XP

Tel: 0845 66 079 67
Fax: 0845 66 079 69

Administration
Lea Hall
Wimboldsley
Cheshire
CW10 0LL

Lifeline drugs team opts for pioneering CareNotes Substance Misuse

KIRKLEES' independent Drug Action Team 'Lifeline' is preparing to use the new CareNotes Substance Misuse solution.

'Lifeline' will use the web-based solution from mid March 2007.

Strand Technology has been working closely with Lifeline to ensure the solution is configured to the organisation's own working processes.

Julian Fifield, from Strand Technology, said: "The attraction of CareNotes Substance Misuse is that it is web based and can be used by multiple agencies."

One of the great benefits of the new solution is that it has been developed to help services engage with their clients.

Graham Phillips, from Strand



Strand Technology regularly exhibit at the Exchange Supplies Event, in London and Manchester.

Report by LUCY BEAUMONT

Technology, said: "One of the important issues faced by people working within Substance Misuse is to engage with service users and encourage them back into the care process.

"If this can be achieved, even on a small scale, it can help prevent the onset of drug-related illnesses and help people to get back on the right track.

"CareNotes Substance Misuse helps with these issues and can free up staff time to concentrate on front line care."

Software hails new era for Drug Action Teams

STRAND Technology has seen tremendous interest in its pioneering Substance Misuse service, since its launch in Spring 2006.

Since then the suite of Care Notes Substance Misuse and Care Notes Needle Exchange has been taken up by NHS Trusts and independent substance misuse agencies and local authorities in England and Wales.

The solution is appealing for a number of reasons: Firstly, the software has been customised for the modern substance misuse service incorporating all aspects of care planning, treatment planning, prescribing and anonymous needle exchange in an easy to use web based interface.

Secondly, Care Notes Substance Misuse is network friendly and uses the latest secure internet technologies. This is a real advantage to modern substance misuse services which increasingly depend on networking different people and agencies together to form a coherent and interlinked

response to clients' needs. Finally, the unique CareNotes Substance Misuse data reporting module makes the time consuming problem of filing in NDTMS returns so much easier! As well as automating the reporting process to the highest degree, the form based structure of CareNotes means users

recognise the forms they are using from the old paper days. 2007 promises to be a very important year for Drug Action Teams as they move towards a network approach. **For advice on how other teams have introduced computer based solutions, ring 0845 66 079.**



David Hannam,
Sales
Director of
Strand
Technology

