KEY THEMES

Expectations:

"When I started, obviously it was quite new and getting told that I would have an injection instead of tablets and it would be administered to me once a month and I would have complete lack of control of my...like my medicine and my sobriety and it would all be managed by this one monthly jag, which sounded like a miracle cure em, was pretty scary and pretty daunting."

Impact:

["My mum can now look at her son and be proud of what I have achieved and how far I have come. I have my kids back and that's my new focus."

Half used substances on top of LAIB:

"Buvidal helps with opiate-based dependence but not much else. I think more work needs to be done around why people take substances and use alcohol as that's something that is never really explored."

Harm reduction-opportunities to widen support for people who use cocaine/crack:

"Access to safer inhalation pipes would be great to be able to engage with those using crack. If we had more trained staff, we could catch more of them for impromptu one-to-one support meetings."

"I like the idea of a safer inhalation pipe"

Choice:

"In the jail, they don't want you or anyone on Subutex as it gets sold etc so anyone who comes in on it is quickly moved onto Buvidal so there isn't really a choice in it"

Wraparound support:

"He phones me a lot just to check up on me, he is really good at attending like my children's hearings and things that like that, like putting in all the positive stuff like, no just the negative."

SCOTTISH DRUGS FORUM

KEY THEMES

Gaps in support:

"Buvidal support in some ways is the same and in others, the same things remain a problem - no real, quick access to mental health services and help. That is an ongoing issue, we must fight to get to be seen"

Need for preparation and support for mental health/emotions returning:

"at the beginning obviously, I struggled with mental health, my anxiety was crazy because you had 20 odd years of being an addict of an opiate and then suddenly, you're getting an opiate blocker and you're, you don't know how to cope with your life."

"Not being able to cope with clarity and all the feelings that come up. These seemed to be subdued more so with methadone. Basically, they have not learned to deal with their trauma so the initial reason for using drugs is still there, it has not been dealt with."

Benefits:

"I feel like I'm back to my normal self. I do have a cry. I do feel a stress. I do feel love, but I feel everything now that I couldn't feel before."

Stigma:

"This doesn't feel like opiate treatment, it just feels normal and like a depot jag and then you get on with your life and that is the difference with this."

Peer education and support:

"I don't find people read leaflets, too much longwinded explanation. I need to hear it from the horse, someone that's been there, do you know?" "I really spoke to my mates about how they found it - they did a better job telling me some of the realities of it compared to the workers."

Need for clearer information:

"The beginning of the process, there was not the information that was needed."

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