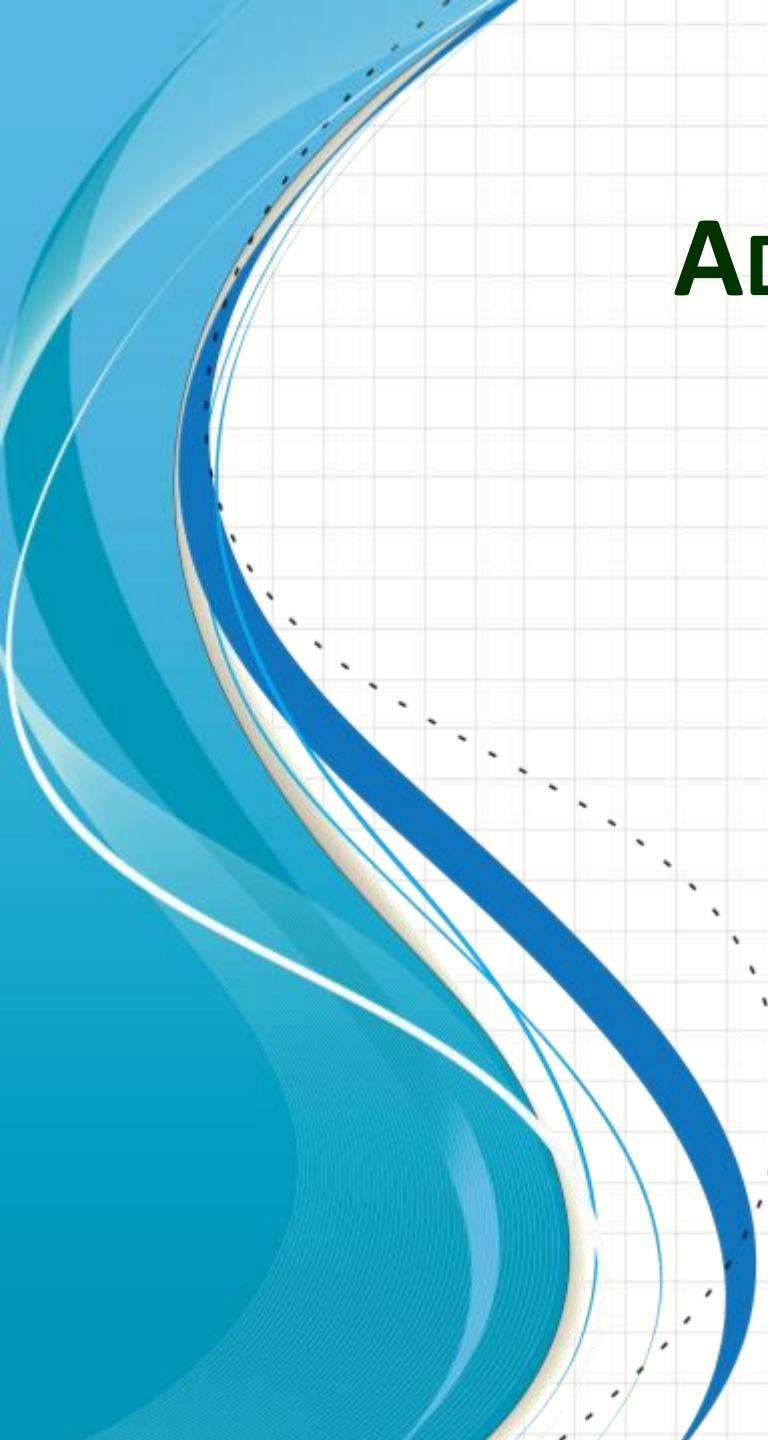




ADDICTIONS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDINBURGH ALCOHOL PROBLEM COURT

Sheriff Frank Crowe

May 2918

Background to the Pilot Court

- Started in February 2016
- No cost/low cost version of earlier proposal for Government funding
- Combination of a wish to sort out petty persistent offenders and aims of social work + NHS Lothian
- Government aspiration to reduce use of short-term sentences of imprisonment

Criteria

- Male offenders
- Living in the Edinburgh City Area
- Chronic Alcohol Problem
- Regular offending at summary level
- Theft, public order, minor assaults
- Not to be used in domestic violence cases unless unsuitable for Caledonian Project

Criteria-2

- Women are catered for through Willow Project
- Help for offenders in East and Mid Lothian through MELD
- Voluntary Services/GP 1st port of call for binge drinkers
- Target for 20 places but open after 12 months

How Scheme Works

- Cases identified by sheriffs in terms of simple criteria
- Remitted to me to consider rapid assessment report prepared in 1 week with accused at liberty.
- Norm 12 month CPO to attend alcohol counselling as directed
- Not an Alcohol CPO as such

Operation of orders

- Progress Reviews about every 6 weeks with same sheriff.
- Brief updates compiled by supervising social worker.
- Accused has sessions with Change, Grow, Live worker and can be referred to other agencies
- Services delivered locally
- NHS links to Ritson Clinic and LEAP

Facts and Figures

- Cohort age range 28-63
- 2 have died
- 2 have been sectioned under Mental Health Act
- 1 is terminally ill
- A fair number failed and ended up in jail for subsequent offending or stopped attending.

Statistics for Feb16 to June 17

- 91 cases were considered for the pilot court.
- About 20 were wrongly referred-women, men living outwith Edinburgh and others who did not show for report due to chaotic lifestyle.
- 37 others unsuitable-mental health problems
- 34 orders made, 24% offending rate during order, 7 revoked, 8 completed 16 ongoing

Currently

- 17 orders ongoing
- 7 concluded this year
- 3 revoked due to imprisonment or failure to appear.
- A few cases not suitable for an order have been monitored by the court on a structured deferred basis

Statistics-2

- Others have ceased drinking .
- Access to LEAP when more stable
- Ritson Clinic approach –rapid detox + prescription of Antabuse
- Others have returned to work-re-united with families-obtained permanent housing
- Some have cut down alcohol use substantially.....

Future

- Has been independent evaluation.
- Need for training of those involved in common ethos.
- Aims-Abstinence? Reduction in intake?
- Reduction in offending
- Improvement in health and wellbeing
- Better links with other services
- Pressure for Residential services
- Better options on completion?

Conclusions

- A difficult cohort but about 2/3 success
- Some cases obviously too problematic
- But other cases have succeeded in helping offender gain accommodation.
- Health improvement, Family ties improved, Return to work, graduation to LEAP, Significant reduction or desistence from alcohol and offending.

A pilot which others can tailor to suit local needs.