

Humankind opens its first employment focussed drug and alcohol support service in South London

Leading national substance use treatment provider, Humankind, has launched its first ever London employment-focussed drug and alcohol support service in the boroughs of Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark. Individual Placement and Support (IPS) services work with people recovering from drug or alcohol dependence and local employers to help those in need of support back into work at the start of their recovery. In addition to a wage, work can support recovery and can give people purpose and the opportunity to build new friendships and connections that can help them move away from drug and alcohol use.

IPS provides intensive, personalised support, starting with a rapid job search to help people find and choose the right job for them and stay in the role. By using a personalised approach to support, IPS helps people find paid jobs that suit their skills and interests within just weeks of being referred to the service. A key component of the Humankind IPS model is the ongoing support provided to ensure that once a service user enters the workforce, they are supported to stay in their role and build a life around it. IPS staff also work alongside employers, helping them to meet their recruitment needs and offering ongoing support throughout the employment period.

Cllr Jim Dickson and Cllr Marcia Cameron, Lambeth's Cabinet Members for Healthier Communities, said:

"We are pleased to welcome the Individual Placement Support initiative to Lambeth. It is an important investment in our communities and we believe is the right way to make a real difference in the lives of those suffering the often hugely damaging impacts of addiction.

"Substance abuse not only damages individuals lives, but also harms families and our wider communities. With specialist and trained workers in place, we will be able to now support some of our most vulnerable residents into employment which will help sustain their recovery and make positive change in their lives."

Christine, a Humankind client who was supported through the IPS scheme said: "All of this has changed my life for the better. I'm busy now and I'm making my own money and learning new skills. I love interacting with the residents in the care home and I feel good knowing that I'm helping others.

The support I received once I started work was really useful as without it, I may have ended up quitting because of any small stress factor. I'd definitely tell anyone to get help from IPS as the support is ongoing and so you'll be more likely to get and keep a job."

Now district councils from Southwark, Lambeth and Lewisham have all teamed up to tackle drug use and alcoholism in South London by commissioning Humankind to provide a new service. The charity has extensive experience and a track record of producing excellent long-term results through other IPS schemes in various areas of the country including Leeds, Gateshead, and Cumbria.

Humankind Director of Operations for London, Lyndsey Morris, said:

This is an exciting new opportunity for people that use our services in Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark. Having employment can be a key part of the recovery process, providing a reason to get out of bed in the morning and boosting confidence, motivation and financial independence. We have seen the transformative effect that IPS has had in other areas and our own fantastic team of trained employment specialists are looking forward to delivering this programme as part of an integrated approach to people's recovery journey."

Seamus Costello the borough Lead for Lambeth Addictions Consortium for South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust said:

“As part of our Consortium’s ongoing commitment to deliver excellent treatment and support for our clients, we are delighted to share Humankind’s ambition to ensure all service users have the opportunity to flourish in their communities, with help from Humankind’s introduction of an exciting new IPS programme across three South London boroughs.”

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NOTE TO EDITORS

HUMANKIND

Humankind is a national charity, with over 2,100 staff which supports over 106,000 people across England. All of our CQC and OFSTED rated services that have been with Humankind over 3 months are either ‘Outstanding’ or ‘Good’. The charity, which launched in the North East in the mid-1980s, is based in Bowburn, County Durham. It has services across the North East, Yorkshire and Humberside, the North West and in the South East and South West. Services include the More Time Social Enterprise, Housing and Independent Living Support, Health Young People and Families, Employment, Training and Education and Substance Misuse. Humankind was joined by [EDP](#) in the South West, as a subsidiary earlier this year.

Humankind has an increasingly significant presence in London, operating drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services across the city, including in Bexley, Lewisham, Haringey and Kensington. It is an ambition of the charity, as part of its recently launched strategy ‘Being Human’ to increase the number of service users it can support in areas across the UK.

Read more [about Humankind here](#).

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