

Hepatitis C micro-elimination

Impact Report 2021-2024

v-i-a

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Introduction

Via is committed to bring long-lasting change to the communities we work in:

- Supporting people with their drug or alcohol dependency, and also their mental and physical wellbeing.
- Working in partnership with a range of national and local stakeholders to make sure that the wider holistic needs of the people who use our services are met.

Our micro-elimination project:

- We aim to eradicate Hep C within our community services by focusing on enhanced testing, diagnosis, and treatment availability.
- We target significant milestones and streamlining treatment pathways.
- We value our close and collaborative relationships with NHS England, Operational Delivery Networks, The Hepatitis C Trust, and Gilead Sciences.



What is micro-elimination?

When an alcohol and drug treatment service achieves micro-elimination, it means it has met the following targets:

- **100%** of those in treatment have been offered a Hep C test
- **100%** of people who currently inject or have previously injected have been tested for Hep C
- **90%** of individuals who currently inject or have previously injected have been tested in the last 12 months
- **90%** of people who were diagnosed with Hep C at the service have started treatment

These targets have been agreed by the Drug Treatment Services Providers Forum.

What is the Drug Treatment Services Provider Forum?

A sector-wide collaboration between Gilead Sciences, NHS England, The Hepatitis C Trust, and drug and alcohol service providers (including Via).

Working together, the forum members developed a set of criteria for measuring micro-elimination in drug and alcohol treatment services.

Through our collaborative efforts, the provider forum exerts influence on new areas of harm reduction, delivering a consistent message to stakeholders about the unique needs of the people we support, with the overarching goal of reaching Hep C elimination in England.



*The Hepatitis C Drug Treatment Service Provider Forum was crowned the winner of the Best Healthcare Analytics Project at the **HSJ Partnership Awards 2023**, recognising its outstanding dedication to improving healthcare and effective collaboration with the NHS.*

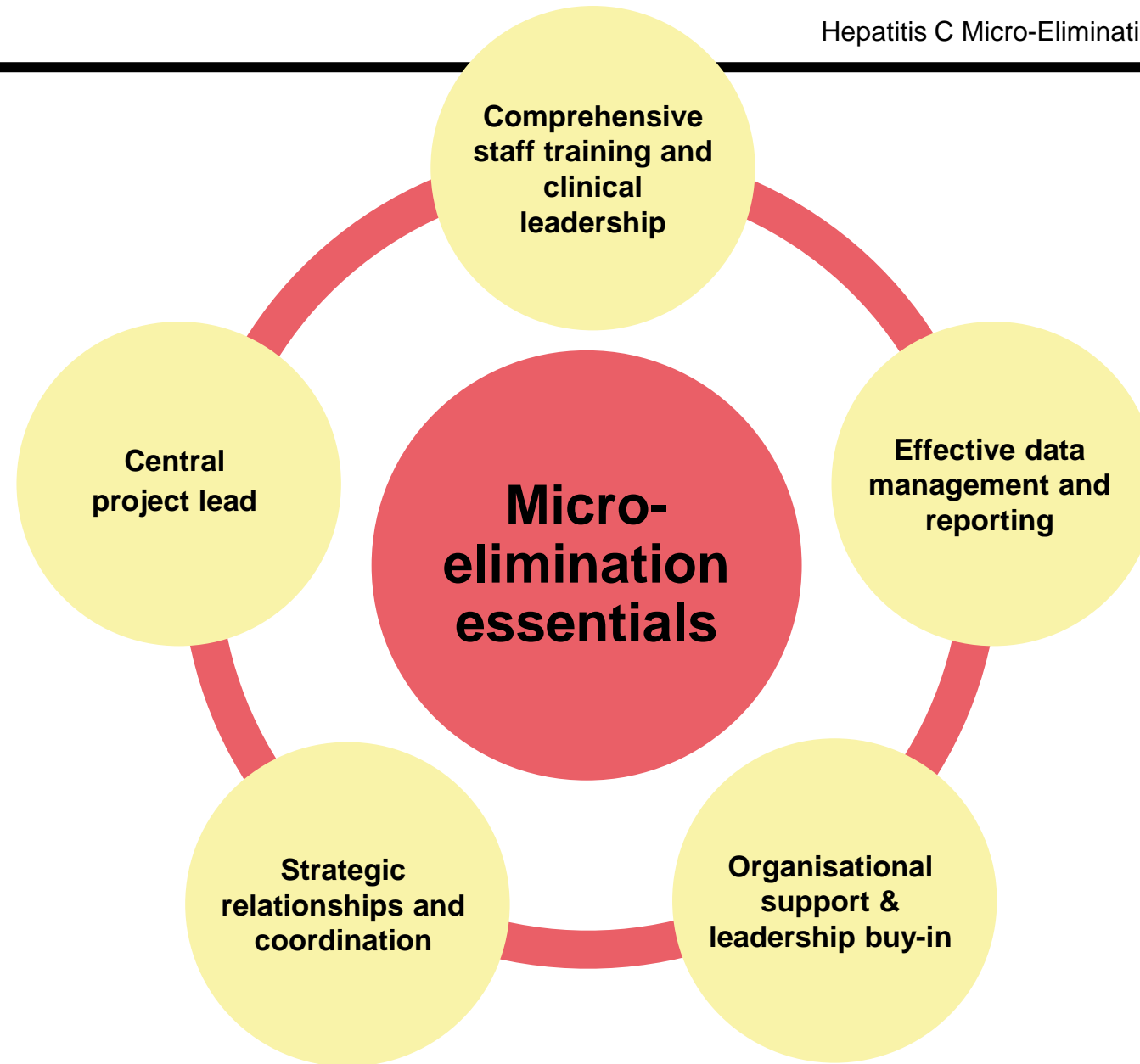
Collaboration and partnerships

- Engagement with **local council public health teams** to promote the impact that our Hep C micro-elimination project has had on people's overall health.
- Partnerships with **The Hepatitis C Trust** and **University College London Find & Treat Community Van** to provide comprehensive BBV and STI screening across all our London boroughs.
- Separate health initiatives such as the **Liver Health Surveillance**, to help people with heavy alcohol use to understand more about their liver health and help with behaviour change.
- Working with all our **NHS HCV Operational Delivery Networks** to provide special initiative funding to boost testing.

Our Brent service was awarded funding by the HCV West London ODN to provide testing vouchers to people who use our services. They also shared special 'highest tester' vouchers to team members who went above and beyond for the call toward Hep C micro-elimination.



Journey to micro-elimination: What did we learn?



Journey to micro-elimination: what did we learn?

Comprehensive staff training and clinical leadership

Ongoing training and education of staff on BBV testing and treatment pathways is essential in reaching and maintaining Hep C micro-elimination.

Having a robust clinical team able to lead on BBV initiatives is also vital. Using health and wellbeing and medical prescriber review appointments to assess BBV risk and conduct BBV screens helped increase the uptake in testing significantly.

Effective data management and reporting

Utilising local data leads to manage the tracking of BBV testing numbers allowed for services to be able to receive frequent and targeted testing lists.

Also having a central Hep C lead to conduct data cleansing too meant that data errors and not-recorded BBV screen results could be picked up more easily. This helped display a better picture of each service's progress towards Hep C micro-elimination.

Journey to micro-elimination: what did we learn?

Organisational support and leadership buy-in

Success heavily relies on the support and active participation of local managers. Their buy-in is critical as it influences the commitment of the broader team and aligns services' goals with the overarching targets of BBV testing and treatment.

Having a BBV champion within the service can significantly enhance focus and accountability too. This role typically involves advocacy, leading initiatives, and being the point of contact for BBV-related activities, helping to maintain a high level of engagement and momentum.

Strategic relationships and coordination

Building strong relationships with ODNs and NHS hospitals and enhancing in-house treatment options can help personalise care and improve treatment accessibility and efficacy. These relationships help create a cohesive strategy across different care points, benefiting patients through streamlined pathways.

Partnerships with organisations like the Hep C Trust support community engagement, patient advocacy, and effective information flow. Having a central project lead helps unify various efforts under a central strategic vision.

Journey to micro-elimination: what did we learn?

Central project lead

Having a dedicated central project lead (Via's National Hep C Coordinator) was the most critical part of the success of this programme. They built relationships with stakeholders and Via services, incorporating partnership working to bring in the best care for people who use our services.

Additionally having the role oversee all data for the project helped streamline the BBV testing data and provide actionable information for services to work on. The role can interact with many points in Via's BBV testing pathway which is helpful to identify ways to continuously improve and ensure the best service user experience possible.

Impact - reaching milestones

Via - Harrow was our first service to achieve Hep C micro-elimination!

They were also the 6th London borough to reach this impressive goal.



Impact – Capital Card

The Capital Card is an award-winning reward card scheme which empowers and rewards people for attending appointments, participating in groups, and getting health and wellbeing support at Via.

They can then spend their points on a range of positive and practical items like food, toiletries and books in their service, or in local gyms, cinemas, shops or restaurants. Each Via service also arranges group events so people can use their points on things they might like to try or do with other people.

The Capital Card has been an integral part of the take-up of BBV testing and Hep C treatment in our services. The table on the right shows the points for each related activity and total number of Capital Card points earned.

Activity	Points earned per activity	Total points earned
BBV screen	100	217,800
BBV brief intervention	10	2,020
First hepatology clinic appointment	30	1,020
Hep C clinic appointment	30	4,200
HCV medication started	50	5,400
HCV medication completed	200	8,400



Tour of Westminster Abbey

London NW1 4RY

Tuesday 30th April - 1pm

100 CC points per ticket.

Friends, family and carers welcome to come along for 100 CC points per ticket. Please bring food and water along, as prices can be expensive.

Any questions please contact the Capital Card team - capitalcard@viaorg.uk or speak to your keyworker

Spaces are limited for each event so please book your space in advance.



Kensington Palace

Wednesday May 29th - 12pm

100 CC points per ticket.

Friends, family and carers welcome to come along for 100 CC points per ticket. Please bring food and water along, as prices can be expensive.

Any questions please contact the Capital Card team - capitalcard@viaorg.uk or speak to your keyworker

Spaces are limited for each event so please book your space in advance.



Impact

During the Via and Gilead partnership, we reached many major milestones.

Between November 2021 and September 2024*:
4,966 dry blood spot tests were carried out.

2022: **1,200**

2023: **2,375**

2024: **1,601** (January-September)

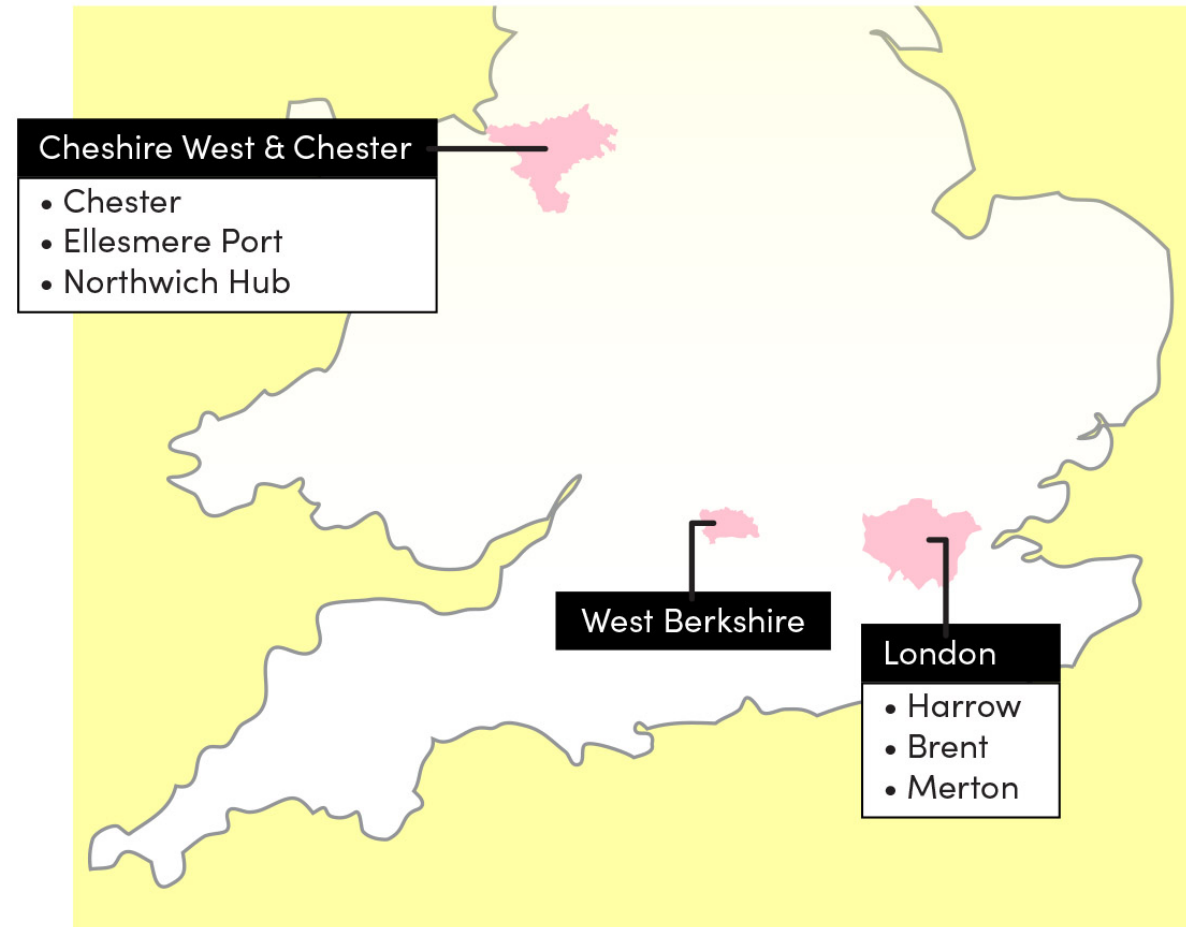
156 Hep C positive-diagnosed service users were started on treatment.



*Data taken from Gilead's HCV Drug Treatment Services Tableau with Via provided arrogated data

Hep C micro-eliminated sites at Via so far!

- Brent
- Chester
- Ellesmere Port
- Harrow
- Merton
- Northwich
- West Berkshire



On-going journey

1

Recognition

Via will continue to recognise staff and services efforts towards Hep C micro-elimination and sustainability as a part of our core values.

2

Sustainability

Develop a national plan for Via services to maintain Hep C micro-elimination as businesses as usual work.

3

Achievements

Vias plans to ensure all Via led commissioned services achieve Hep C micro-elimination

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