

# Addiction and Substance misuse pathways

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# Gordon Morse – statement of interests

- Sole employer Turning Point
- Some unpaid advisory work to the Hepatitis C coalition which lobbies for increased adoption of HCV treatments, sponsored by Pharma.



1. The scope of substance misuse within the UK and within the UK's medical services
2. Where treatment is available
3. How to access it
4. What treatment is
5. Treatment effectiveness
6. Questions

....all in 30 minutes

# 1. Scope

- The size
- The cost to health and health services

# Statistics on Drugs Misuse: England, 2017

Publication date: 09:30 February 28, 2017. NHS Digital

- In 2015/16 there were 8,621 England hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of drug-related mental health and behavioural disorders
- There were 15,074 hospital admissions with a primary diagnosis of poisoning by illicit drugs.
- In 2015 there were 2,479 registered deaths related to drug misuse. (England and Wales)  
Deaths related to drug misuse are at their highest level since comparable records began in 1993.

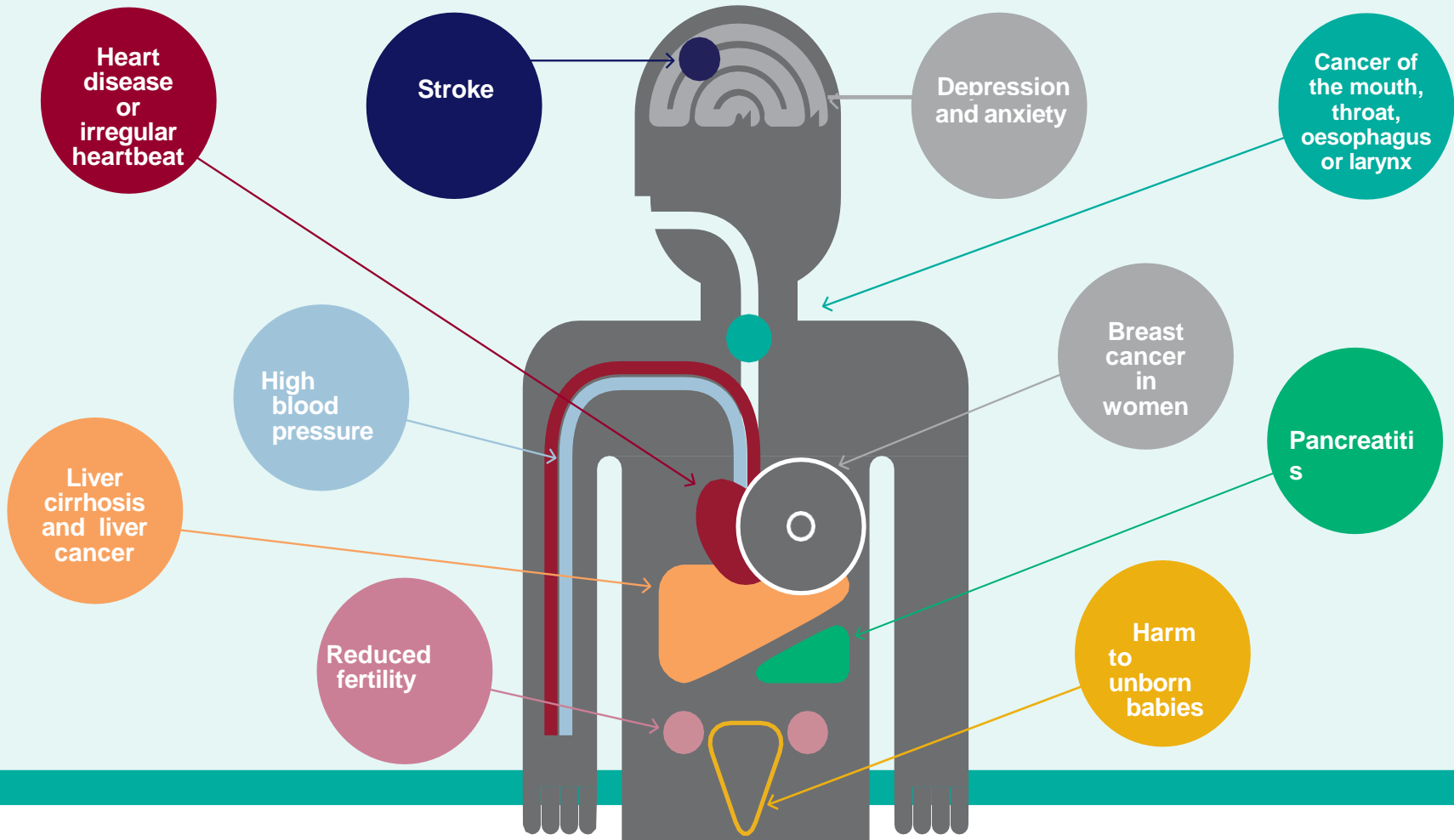
# ....and Alcohol....

(Alcohol Concern)

- In the UK, in 2015 there were 8,758 alcohol-related deaths (around 14 per 100,000 people). The mortality rates are highest among people aged 55-64.
- In England, there are an estimated 595,131 dependent drinkers (>30 per GP), of whom only 108,696 are currently accessing treatment.
- Alcohol misuse is the biggest risk factor for death, ill-health and disability among 15-49 year-olds in the UK, and the fifth biggest risk factor across all ages.
- Alcohol harms are estimated to cost the NHS around £3.5 billion annually.

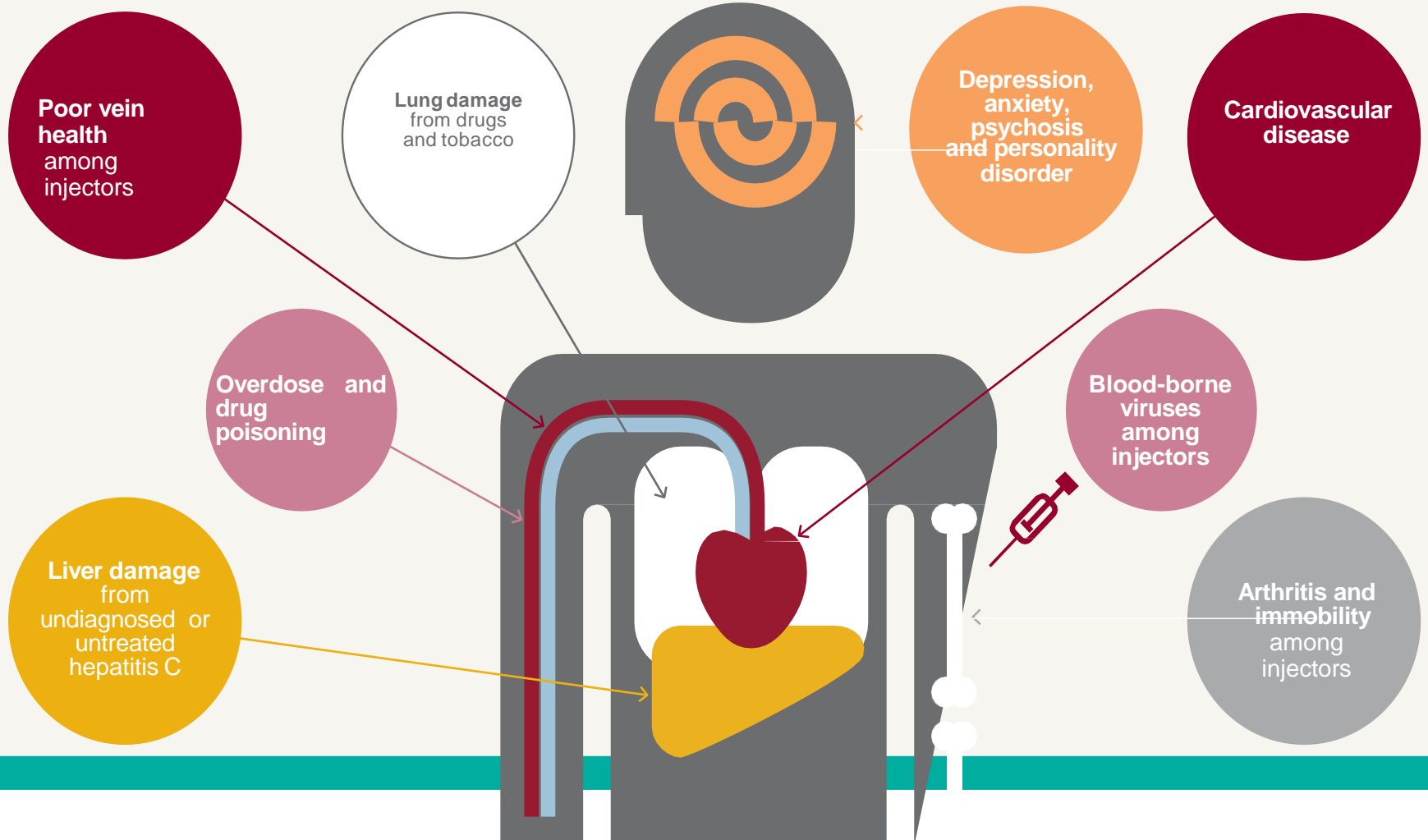


# Alcohol misuse damages health





# Drug misuse damages health



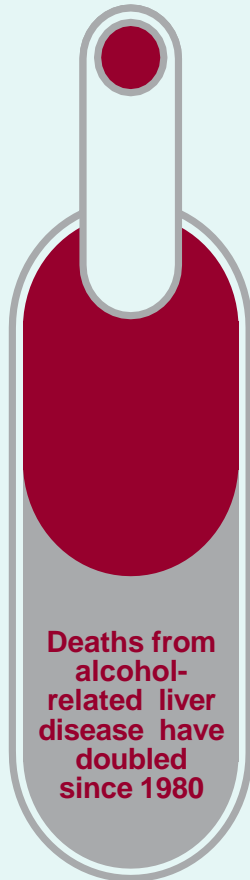




# Alcohol and drug deaths

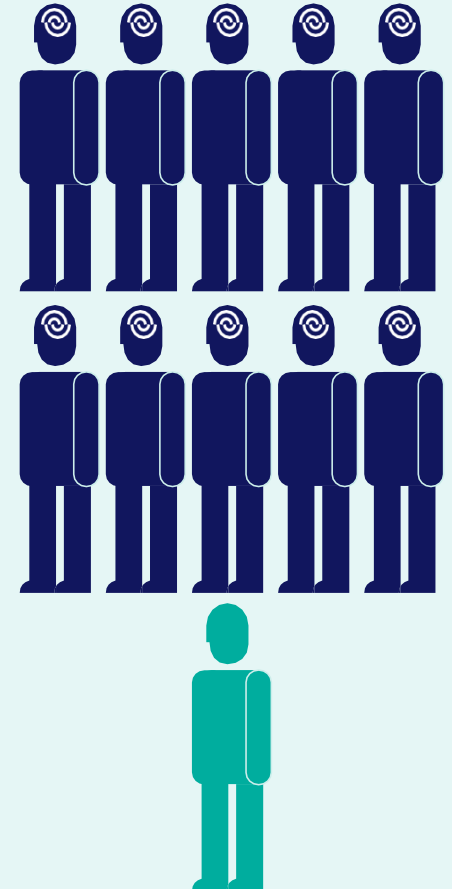
Alcohol misuse leads to many deaths

**21,485** people died from alcohol-related causes in 2012



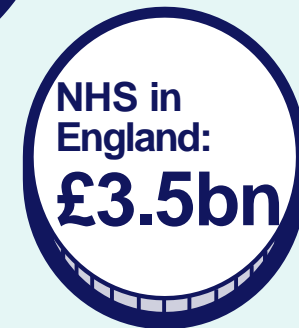
Deaths among heroin users are **10 times** the death rate in the general population

Deaths involving new drugs and some prescription medicines are rising





# The annual cost of alcohol-related harm

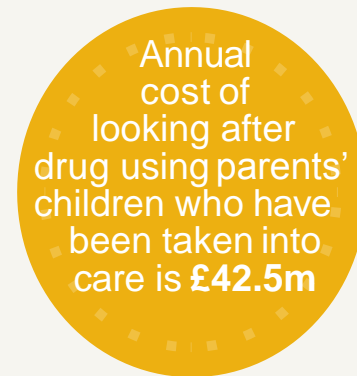
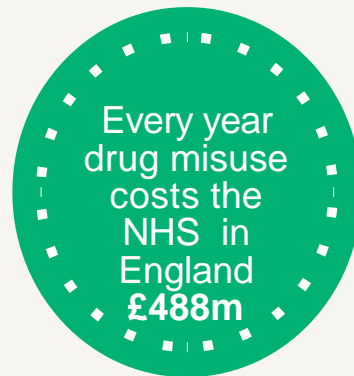
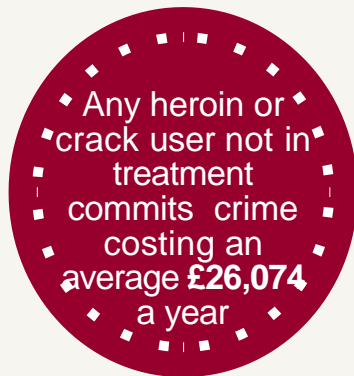




# The annual cost of drug addiction

Every year it costs  
society

# £15.4bn



## 2. Where to get treatment

# Where to get treatment

## Voluntary agencies

- advice
- signposting
- linking with benefits advice, housing, legal advice etc
- 12 step fellowships

## Primary Care

- Health advice
- Shared care
- Brief interventions
- Referral to acute care, mental health services, specialist substance misuse treatment providers etc

## NHS physical and mental healthcare

- Crisis intervention healthcare
- (limited) signposting and referral

## Specialist substance misuse services

- (may have originally been voluntary/charity etc – increasingly LA funded)
- “one stop shop” advice, harm reduction, signposting, abstinence maintenance, aftercare

## Residential “rehab”

- Almost always abstinence based
- Usually independent (charitable or private)
- Usually 12 step affiliated
- Are a one-off event

# 3. How to get treatment

## Voluntary agencies

- Self referral

## Primary Care

- Self referral
- Referred from other NHS body

## NHS physical and mental healthcare

- A&E
- Referred by GP
- Referred from mental health to acute health or vice versa

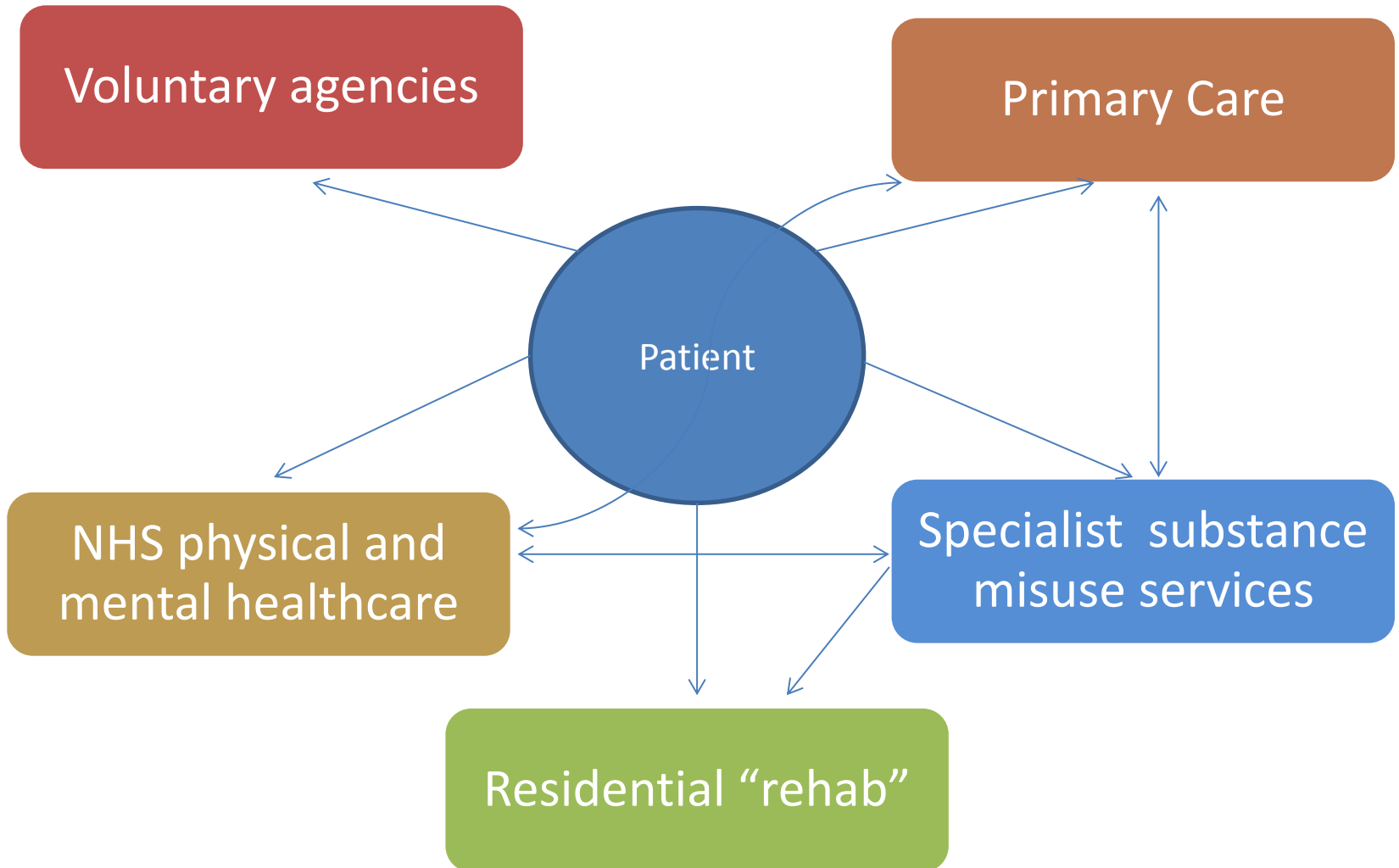
## Specialist substance misuse services

- Self referred
- Referred from anyone in the healthcare spectrum
- Referred by the Courts and/or police

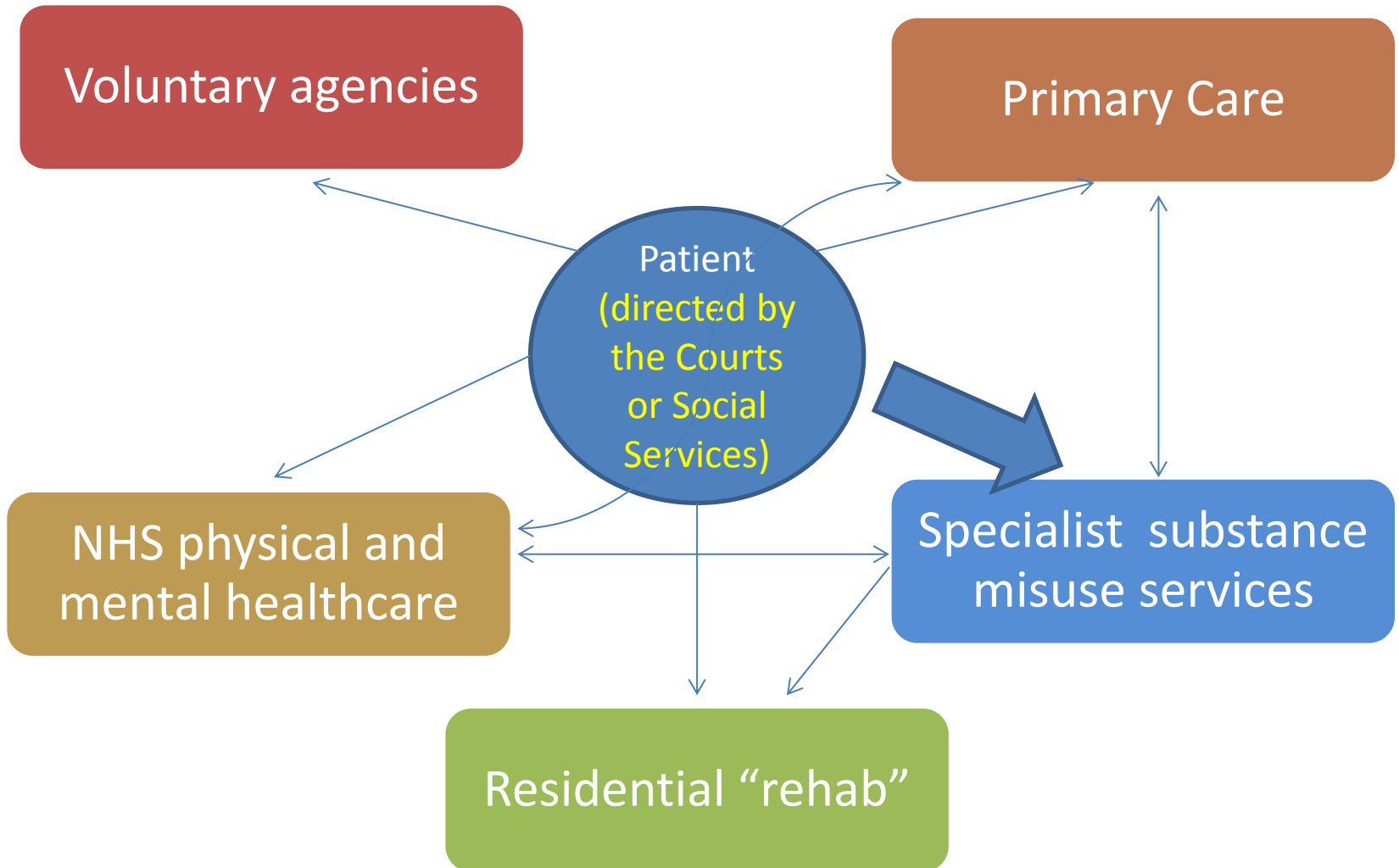
## Residential “rehab”

- Self referred if self funding
- Referred from specialist community services according to resources and referral criteria

# 3. How to get treatment



# 3. How to get treatment





## 4. What treatment is

Specialist substance  
misuse services

# agenda

## Specialist substance misuse services

...a “one stop shop” where an individual or his/her family/carer should be able to get or access whatever help, support or evidence-based intervention that they need and/or are open to at the time, which solely aims at improving the health and wellbeing of that individual.

# Who provide it

## Specialist substance misuse services

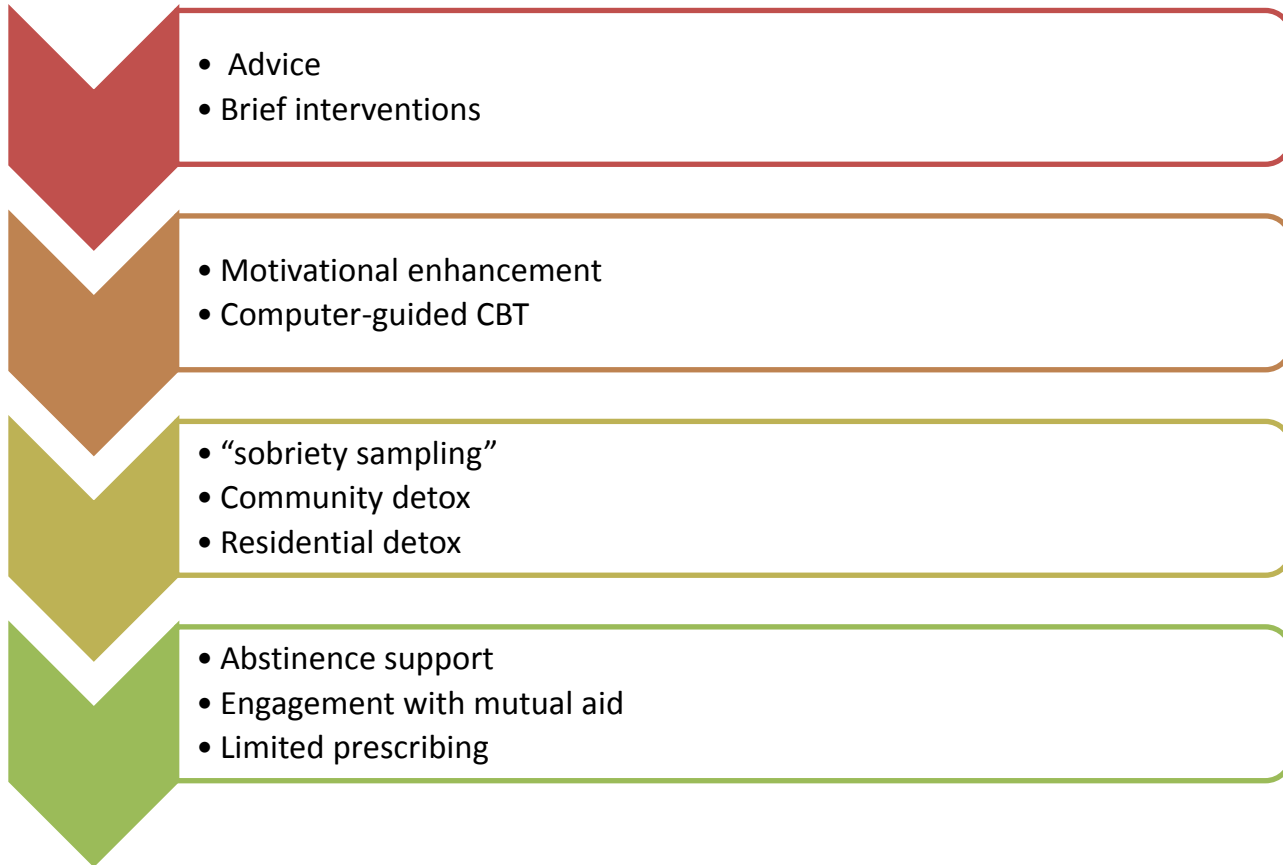
- Every Local Authority is responsible (via PHE) for commissioning such a service
- Most are now provided by non NHS organisations on a commission lasting a few years, through competitive tender
- Subject to extreme scrutiny from performance data and CQC
- Specialist staff usually include doctors, psychologists, nurses, a range of trained specialist workers – and are supported by management teams

# What it involves

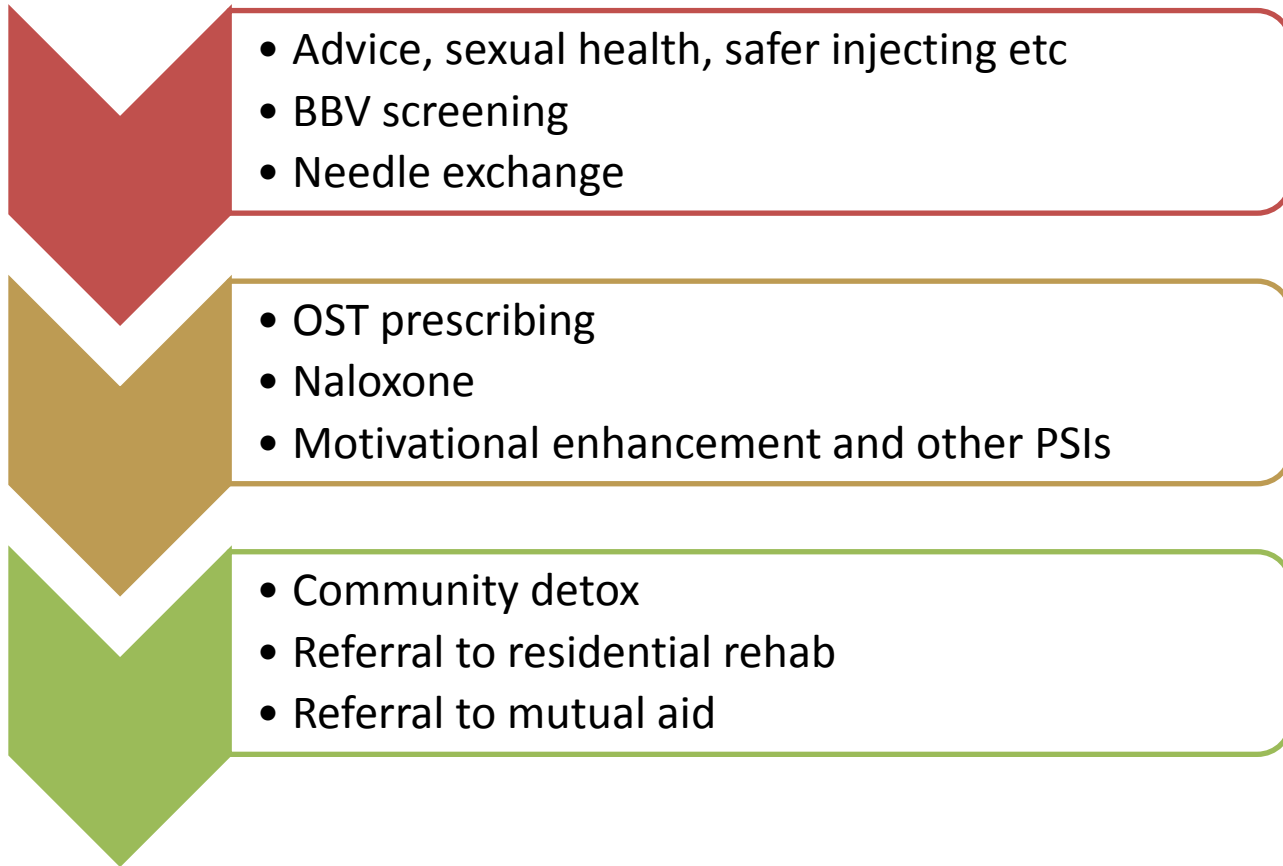
## Specialist substance misuse services

- **Assessment** (and re-assessment)
- Structured evidence-based interventions
- Co-working with other healthcare providers, social services, employment and housing agencies as appropriate
- Maintaining motivation and ambition for a healthier, more fulfilling and independent life

# Alcohol interventions



# Opiate interventions



# 5. Treatment effectiveness



# Investing in alcohol interventions saves money

Every 5,000 patients screened in primary care may prevent **67** A&E visits and **61** hospital admissions

**Costs**  
**£25,000**  
**Saves**  
**£90,000**

One alcohol liaison nurse can prevent **97** A&E visits and **57** hospital admissions

**Costs**  
**£60,000**  
**Saves**  
**£90,000**

Every **100** alcohol-dependent people treated can prevent **18** A&E visits and **22** hospital admissions

**Costs**  
**£40,000**  
**Saves**  
**£60,000**







# Investing in drug treatment cuts crime and saves money



Every **£1** spent  
on drug  
treatment **saves**  
**£2.50** in costs to  
society



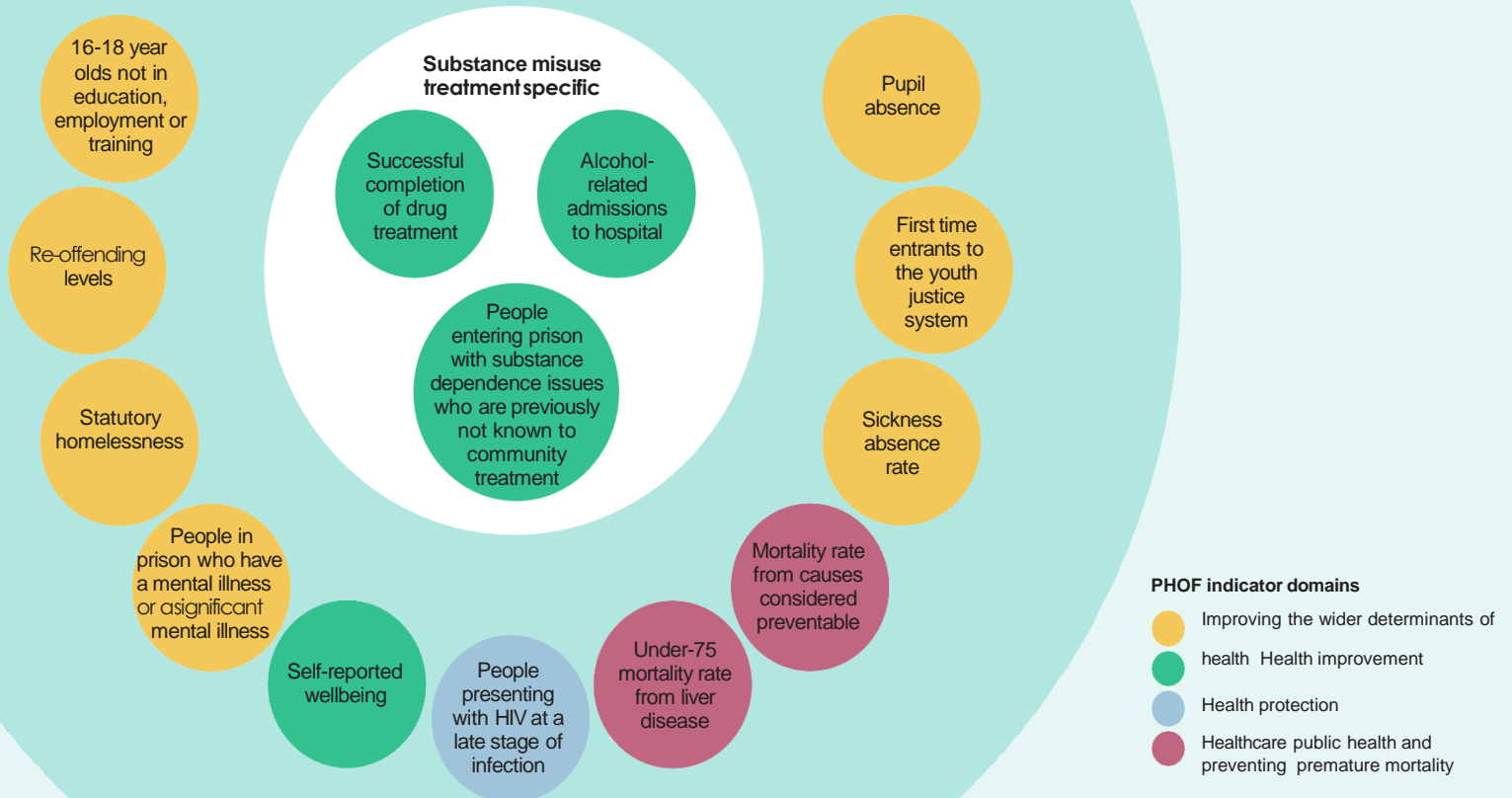
Drug treatment  
**prevents an**  
**estimated 4.9m**  
**crimes** every year



Treatment **saves an**  
**estimated £960m**  
costs to the public,  
businesses, criminal  
justice and the NHS



# Drug and alcohol interventions lead to better public health outcomes



that's enough

Questions?

Answers?