



Love Yourself — Get Tested



Darren Spicer, P2P mentor &

A hepatitis C Roadshow took place across Hampshire from 10th — 14th February, inviting people to love themselves during Valentine’s week and get tested for hepatitis C.

Solent NHS and HOMER P2P (peer to peer) Hepatitis C mentors teamed up with the Hepatitis C Trust to target services in Aldershot, Andover, Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Fareham, Havant, New Milton, Ringwood, and Winchester.

Those most at risk from the virus were tested.

Each hub put on a variety of events, including a healthy eating and tasting session, a tea party and buffet lunches.

The Hepatitis C Trust’s testing van along with Jim Connelly, Outreach Officer for the Trust attended the Roadshow to provide mouth swab testing all

week.

Mouth swabs have the advantage of testing for Hepatitis C antibodies in a quick and easy way with results available after 20 minutes.

An estimated 23,000 people in the South East Region have hepatitis C.

Whilst most people with hepatitis C remain undiagnosed; the number of la-



Martine Jones, Recovery Worker & Louise Hansford enjoy a buffet lunch in



Jim Connelly, Hep C Trust Outreach

laboratory reports of hepatitis C has increased markedly across the South East in

recent years, with over 1,100 reports in 2009.

The Hepatitis C Trust (2013) ranked NHS Southampton General Hospital as sixth in the country for hepatitis C hospital admissions in 2011/12.

Louise Hansford is a Senior Recovery Worker with HOMER who organised the “*Love Yourself Get Tested*” roadshow.

Louise commented, “This Love Yourself, Get Tested Roadshow allowed us to reach those most at risk of hepatitis C in the community and find the undiagnosed.”

This was a real opportunity to tackle a silent killer head on and raise awareness of the care and support which is available for those with hepatitis C in Hampshire.”

Charles Gore, Chief Executive of the Hepatitis C Trust said, “We need to make testing as easy and convenient as possible for people to access which is why partnerships with drug services are so important.

Roadshows such as this mean we can get to the heart of the hepatitis problem in the UK.”

Preliminary results show that we tested at least **182** service users and identified over **30** people who have come into contact with Hepatitis C.

All those people who have

come into contact have been invited to have the second test done to establish whether they have contracted the hepatitis C virus.

Along with this they have all been offered ongoing support from the P2P mentoring team.

The event was deemed to be a resounding success and we will be returning later on in the year to target some specific areas where we identified the most people at risk.

