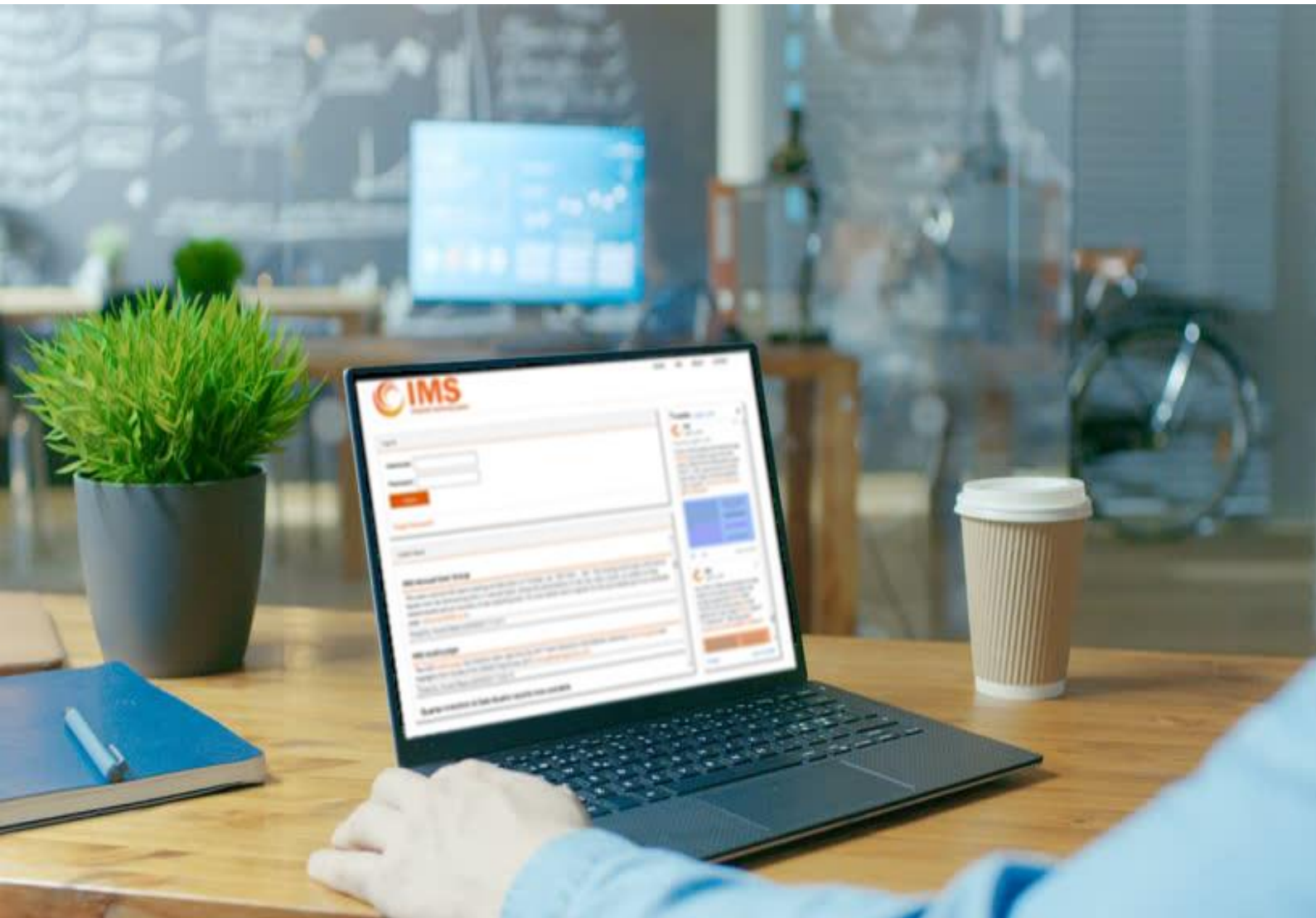


# Integrated Monitoring System

## Privacy & Data Security

October 2021

Version 4.0



## Introduction

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Cheshire and Merseyside Local Authorities requested the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University, to implement a data monitoring system for local treatment providers. This involved the development of a dataset specifically tailored towards individuals with issues around substance use in conjunction with a robust database enabling timely recording of treatment, outcomes and wellbeing data by relevant agencies. The data is supplied to the Public Health Institute via the secure IMS website either by data entry or through a secure file transfer protocol.

## Why does this data need to be collected?

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Local areas require surveillance to determine the distribution, determinants and efficacy of interventions for the substance using population. As several non-structured and structured services may be involved in the care of a substance user simultaneously or consecutively, this integrated monitoring system, provides robust attributable data to describe the nature and journey of individuals presenting for treatment interventions. When analysed with NDTMS data care pathways and onward referral to structured treatment are identified. Data reporting will facilitate policy formulation and will support the development of efficient commissioning systems at a local level.

## Which providers should report to the monitoring system?

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Services who provide non structured treatment interventions, including the provision of open access facilities and outreach which deliver: substance-specific advice, information and support; extended brief interventions to help drug and alcohol users reduce substance-related harm; and assessment and referral of those with more serious substance-related problems for care-planned structured treatment.

## What data is to be collected?

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In summary the main data items include the following information:

- *Attributer*: Composed of initials, date of birth and gender, used to identify individuals at agency level and across services – used for treatment journey monitoring
- *Geographical*: Recording of table linked postcode information allowing reporting by postcode of residence to DAAT and Local Authority.
- *Intervention*: Date and type of intervention accessed
- *Outcome information*: Fields regarding accommodation, employment and wellbeing information
- *Referral information*: Data relating to referral source to treatment and referral destinations to partner and external organisations and associations

## The collection of client details

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It is necessary that the individual's actual initials, date of birth and sex (attributer), rather than a pseudonym attributer is reported by the provider. From a statistical perspective this will eliminate double counting and will ensure reporting systems are based on individuals.

## Treatment journeys

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The attributor is vital when mapping client treatment journeys. If an individual accesses treatment interventions in provider A, B and C, the initials, date of birth and sex are used to identify the movement between services; if an individual uses a pseudonym at each provider an efficient treatment system cannot be evidenced, as the client's treatment journey cannot be linked. The 'true' attributor can be used to substantiate service coordination and provide support to an effective recovery system.

## Attributable data and research

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Data are collected for statistical, service planning and research purposes. These data are not made available in a form that identifies data subjects.

Initials, date of birth and sex are obtained primarily to remove double counting of individuals. This is the minimum necessary personal data for research purposes. The main factor influencing the amount of personal data collected is the need to identify duplicate records. This requires the individual's first and last initials, date of birth and sex.

Postcode has been requested to assign individuals to local geographies. Ethnicity and nationality are also required for general monitoring, planning purposes and trend analysis. These data items are vital to service planning and to meet the information needs of service providers and commissioners.

Data sets are not disclosed outside the Public Health Institute in attributable format other than for the purposes of data matching with the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) held by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)<sup>1</sup> so that local authorities can discern the total number of individuals in contact with any level of treatment delivery in their area. DHSC will not hold the data once the match has taken place. Data otherwise are only disclosed in the form of reports and manuscripts in which the data are aggregated in summary.

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<sup>1</sup> Between 1st April 2013 and 30th September 2021 Public Health England (PHE) was an executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). From 1st October 2021 NDTMS data matching previously completed by PHE will be delivered by the NDTMS team within the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC).

## Principles for processing personal data - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

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- **It is lawful, fair, and transparent.**

The IMS system is a registry of any individual in contact with 'Needle and Syringe Programmes' (NSP) and other treatment services. The legal basis by which IMS data is processed is for reasons of public interest in the area of Public Health. Patient registries play a key role in ensuring high standards of healthcare and in advancing knowledge of diseases and treatment.

- **It is specific, explicit and legitimate.**

The IMS data collection tool is a modular system which allows services to capture only activity which is relevant to the need and operation of that service.

- **It is adequate, relevant and not excessive.**

A full list of data fields is available from [ims.ljmu.ac.uk/reference](https://ims.ljmu.ac.uk/reference). This is reviewed annually to ensure data is captured to meet the reporting needs of both service providers and commissioners, and to remove fields which are no longer relevant.

- **It is accurate and kept up to date.**

The IMS system is a live and updatable database, whereby system users may add, edit, or delete data as required, or where support is required to action this, users may request data is updated by the IMS team. [ims.ljmu.ac.uk/contact](https://ims.ljmu.ac.uk/contact)

- **It is kept for no longer than necessary.**

IMS data is used for longitudinal surveillance to map the provision and demand for NSP services, and to identify client demographic changes over time. This means that data is not subject to a date of destruction. However individuals may at any time choose to withdraw their '*consent for data processing*' or request the deletion of personal data, which will be applied retrospectively to all relevant data.

- **It is processed securely.**

Access to the IMS online tool requires use of a username and password. Users must change their password every sixty days. The new password is validated to ensure a sufficiently complex combination of characters is used. The IMS online tool uses data views, which secure against vulnerability to attacks using SQL injection. The IMS webpage uses the HTTPS (RSA 2048-Bit) protocol to establish a secure encrypted link between the LJMU servers and the client's computer. All IMS data is stored in SQL on Windows 2019 servers which are members of a domain and secured via the active directory. Windows servers are fully patched each month. Access to each file share is restricted to named users, using role based access and least privilege in terms of accounts connecting. The data is backed up every night. The LJMU firewall stops anyone from outside of LJMU accessing the particular fileserver in question. It also stops people logging onto the domain. Fileshares use NetBIOS over TCP-IP (NBT) which encrypts the data.

## Rights of individuals - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)<sup>2</sup>

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### The right to be informed

Individuals have the right to be informed what data we are collecting about them and how this data will be used. 'Information sheet 5 - Information for Clients/Individuals' can be found on page 12 of this document and this should be made available for clients.

### The right of access

Individuals have the right to access their data. The IMS user reports function includes a "Client Detailed Record" which may be used to obtain a summary of client data. For more detailed data you should use the "Create Extract, >> Local Extract" option to download your data, then filter this to obtain data for the specific individual.

### The right to rectification

The IMS system is a live and updatable database. IMS users may add, edit, or delete data as required. When support is required this may be requested from the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University. Where support is requested, data update requests will be completed within five working days.

### The right to erasure

IMS users may edit and delete client details and activity as required. However you should also be aware that IMS client data is securely backed up daily, and is also held within data audit tables. Therefore if a client wishes to exercise their right to erasure, you should contact us and quote the client's unique IMS ID number. This is a unique and anonymous code which will allow us to delete all relevant data and we will confirm that the client has been erased from the IMS system.

### The right to restrict processing

The client details screen contains a 'consent to process data' question. This must be completed when the client is first entered on the IMS system, and may be updated at any time. Where this item is marked as 'No', data relating to the individual will only be viewed by staff within the specific service and will not be used for any reporting or data analysis by the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University. Where this question is updated, any change will be applied retrospectively to any data relating to the individual.

### The right to data portability

Individuals have the right to their own data, for example if they wish to transfer their data to another treatment provider. To obtain detailed client data you should use the "Create Extract, >> Local Extract" option to download your data, then filter this to obtain data for the specific individual.

### The right to object

Individuals must be informed how their data will be used; this is set out in 'Information sheet 5 - Information for Clients/Individuals' on page 12 of this document. Where the individual objects to use of their personal data you should use the 'dummy attributor' with initials "X X" and date of birth "05/05/1955". As with clients who respond 'No' to the 'consent to process data' question, data recorded with these client details will not be subject to any further data processing.

### Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling

IMS data is processed for reasons of public interest in the area of Public Health. It is not used in relation to automated decision making or profiling.

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<sup>2</sup> [ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights)

## Exercising rights of access

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In most instances the individual client should contact the specific treatment service provider, who will fulfil their request.

However in some circumstances this may not be possible:

- Some providers record client data via a separate client data system (for example NexWebstar Health, PharmOutcome, or CRiIS), in these situations data is extracted from the relevant system and uploaded to IMS. Where this is the case the provider will be given a user login and password for the IMS system which enables them to access their data in the same way as services who use the 'direct data entry' method.
- Due to recommissioning and other changes in service providers the original service provider may no longer exist. Where this is the case the individual may contact the Public Health Institute LJMU directly with their request.

## Data relating to IMS users

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In order to maintain an IMS user account it is necessary to provide your full name and a valid email address. This information is required to use the IMS system. In addition we may also send you occasional emails with information such as reports and updates relating to IMS or other relevant Public Health information from the Public Health Institute.

If you wish to check or update your personal information, or unsubscribe from emails, this can be done after logging into IMS here: [ims.ljmu.ac.uk/account/details](https://ims.ljmu.ac.uk/account/details)

If you are unable to access IMS or wish to delete your user account, please contact us with your request.

## Provider policies - Do all providers have a clear confidentiality/data handling policy?

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The provider's data policy should be presented and clearly explained to the client/individual, both verbally and in written form, before assessment for treatment begins. It should be explained on the client/individual's first visit and must describe:

- what information will be collected by the treatment service
- when and what information will be shared with any other services and organisations involved in their care
- who the information will go to and why
- in what circumstances confidentiality may be breached

For services within NHS Trusts, the policy may be part of a general Trust policy, but it should be adapted if it does not include the above information.

The policy itself may be outlined in the form of a simple leaflet and/or notice displayed within the treatment service; however the patient/individual must be given the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University information sheet alongside the treatment service's confidentiality policy/leaflet.

## Data relating to deceased individuals

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The UK GDPR only applies to information which relates to an identifiable living individual. Information relating to a deceased person does not constitute personal data and therefore the data contained within IMS's Drug Related Deaths (DRD) surveillance system is not subject to the UK GDPR.

However the Public Health Institute and all parties participating in the review process have a duty of care with this information which can often be sensitive and highly personal, and accordingly access is granted solely for the purpose of reviewing deaths in order to improve future care and service planning, and will not be disclosed to anyone outside of the membership of a local authority area.

For professionals who are not members of a local DRD review panel but who contributed to an individual's care while living and are able to contribute information to a case, access will be granted solely to that individual's case. Under all circumstances, disclosure of a deceased person's health data will not take place if there is a risk of serious harm to a living individual.

## INFORMATION SHEET 1

### Sharing Data with the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University

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Local confidentiality policies may differ due to the different needs and practices of treatment services but, in the case of information collected and shared with the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University the following should provide some guidance.

- A client/individual's initials, date of birth, gender and full postcode are used for the IMS. Although not fully identified data, these items of information mean that the client/individual has important rights in relation to their data. These rights are listed in **Information Sheet 4 - Rights of individuals - GDPR** together with information to explain how the rights of the individual may be exercised in relation to IMS.
- It is necessary to obtain explicit *consent to process data* from the client/individual before data is included within reporting or data analysis by the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University.
- Explicit consent to process data can be given orally or in writing. It should be given freely in circumstances where the client has been appropriately informed. There should be an understanding of available options and any concerns and queries should be addressed.
- The client/individual must be shown the **Information Sheet 5 - Information for Clients/Individuals** sheet alongside the treatment service's confidentiality policy/leaflet, which explains what the information will be used for. Ideally this would be included within the general process of explaining local data collection policies relevant to the specific service.
- If the client/individual declines consent to process data, record "No" within the "Consent" data field.
- If a treatment service has not previously provided data to the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University but begins to do so for the first time, the service should seek retrospective consent to process data from any existing clients. Where this cannot be obtained, then mark the record as 'N' in the 'Consent' data field.
- Most clients/individuals are reassured when they know why their data is collected and how it is shared. Become aware of the reasons for collecting various data items and how information is used within your service so that your clients/individuals are fully enabled to make an informed decision.
- Under GDPR legislation, individuals have the right to ask for their data to be retrospectively deleted from IMS. If a request is received, please contact the IMS Team who will advise you on the process for deletion.



## INFORMATION SHEET 2

### Why Information is needed for the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University

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The treatment information that you provide to the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University is used for several purposes. Primarily it is used to:

- Assess the number of individuals attending services in order to monitor the progress of the local commissioning strategies.
- Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of treatment provision, including treatment outcomes for clients/individuals.
- Provide a local picture of provider users and their needs, which will assist service commissioners in planning and developing better treatment services that are more appropriate to their geographical area.
- Produce statistics and to support research on treatment and general public health.

### The type of information collected

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It is essential that treatment meets the different needs of the various local populations. For this reason, the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University collects several data items. These include the dates of brief interventions, referrals, wellbeing assessments and syringe exchange transactions. The list incorporates information on the type of interventions and referrals provided. In addition, we also collate demographics, gender and ethnicity.

The information helps those who commission services to use resources more appropriately to improve treatment.

## INFORMATION SHEET 3

### How Information is handled within the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University

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Familiarise yourself with the information below and feel free to share its detail with clients/individuals who wish to have more information about the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University and the way in which they handle and use data.

- To minimise double counting, it is necessary to be able to identify if clients/individuals have attended more than one service. For this purpose the initials, date of birth, gender and full postcode are recorded. These data items are stored on a database in a secure environment.
- Care is taken at the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University to ensure that data cannot be accessed unless it is for a clearly authorised purpose.
- The law strictly controls the sharing of very sensitive personal information. Anyone who receives information from the database is under a legal duty to keep it confidential.
- Any information published by the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University is always in the terms of total numbers of people.
- Any research that would involve the use of data would be closely scrutinised by the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University. Where appropriate, research proposals would also have to obtain ethical approval.
- Under no circumstances is potentially identifiable data made public.
- All data collection and monitoring systems run by PHI have been impact assessed for GDPR legislation.

## INFORMATION SHEET 4

### Rights of individuals - GDPR<sup>3</sup>

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#### The right to be informed

Individuals have the right to be informed what data we are collecting about them and how this data will be used. The 'Information sheet 5 - Information for Clients/Individuals' explains how your data is used.

#### The right of access

Individuals have the right to access their data. The information recorded about you in IMS will be made available on request.

#### The right to rectification

The IMS system is a live and updatable database. You may request your information is corrected at any interaction with the IMS reporting service you are using. In the case that it is not possible or reasonable for you to contact the specific reporting service you may contact the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University directly.

#### The right to erasure

The IMS system is a live and updatable database. You may request your information is deleted at any interaction with the IMS reporting service you are using. In the case that it is not possible or reasonable for you to contact the specific reporting service you may contact the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University directly.

#### The right to restrict processing

Individuals / clients are asked for their 'consent to process data' this must be completed when the client is first entered on the IMS system, and may be updated at any time. Where this item is marked as 'No', data relating to the individual will not be used for any reporting or data analysis by the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University. Where this question is updated, any change will be applied retrospectively to any data relating to the individual.

#### The right to data portability

Individuals have the right to their own data. For example if they wish to transfer their data to another treatment provider. To obtain a copy of your data you should ask the IMS reporting service you are using. In the case that it is not possible or reasonable for you to contact the specific reporting service you may contact the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University directly.

#### The right to object

Where the individual objects to use of their personal data their name (or initials), date of birth, and gender information should not be recorded in the IMS system. Instead a generic 'dummy attributor' with initials "XX" and date of birth "05/05/1955" will be used. As with clients who respond 'No' to the 'consent to process data' question, data recorded with these client details will not be subject to any further data processing.

#### Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling

IMS data is processed for reasons of public interest in the area of Public Health. It is not used in relation to automated decision making or profiling.

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<sup>3</sup> GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) forms part of the data protection regime in the UK, together with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) [ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr)

## INFORMATION SHEET 5

### Information for Clients/Individuals

*The information on this page can be adapted, as necessary, by your treatment service. The information must be imparted to clients/individuals either as it is, or included as part of your own service policy.*

- We, your treatment service, ask you for information so that you can receive proper care and treatment.
- We keep your information, together with details of your care, because it may be needed if we see you again.
- You have the right to apply for access to any records kept about your health.
- The sharing of sensitive personal information is strictly controlled by law. Anyone who receives information from us is also under a legal duty to:
  - only use the information for the purposes you have agreed to
  - keep the information strictly confidential.
- We share some information about you with the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University. This is data used to collect information on drug and alcohol treatment provision.
- Your full name and address are NOT passed on to the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University although some details are sent to minimise the risk of you being counted twice; for example your initials, date of birth, gender, ethnicity and postcode.
- The Public Health Institute does not pass any identifiable information to any other organisations or agencies other than for the purposes of data matching with the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) held by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for the purposes of matching data to determine total numbers of individuals in treatment. DHSC will not continue to hold this data once the match has taken place, and will not use it for any other purposes.
- Your information is very useful for helping to plan and develop services that can best meet your needs. However, if you do not want information about you to be passed on, you have a right to say this.
- If you wish to know more about the Public Health Institute, Liverpool John Moores University (including why information is needed, how information is handled and/ or the type of information collected) please ask your service.
- Under GDPR legislation you have important rights in relation to how your data is used. These include:
  - The “*right to restrict the processing*” of your information by LJMU, and you can state this at any interaction with the IMS reporting service you are using.
  - You have the “*right to erasure*” and your data pertaining to your interactions with this service will be deleted upon request.
- Further information on your rights, and how these rights may be exercised in relation to IMS is available within **Information Sheet 4 - Rights of individuals – GDPR**