



ASSOCIATION OF DRUG ACTION TEAMS

PRIORITIES and WORKPLAN
Oct 2003- Oct 2004

DAT Association Priorities Paper

Background

As part of the re-focusing of the DAT Association it was agreed that on an annual basis a priority-setting meeting would take place. The meeting held in October 03 was the second of such meetings. The overall aim of the priority setting meeting was to ensure the continued development of the Association into a more pro-active body that both supports the work of local DATs whilst contributing and influencing the national agenda on identified collective areas of interest. In line with the Association's 'Terms of Reference' it is also envisaged that Association finances will be used to support the implementation of the agreed priority areas of work.

Process Undertaken to Agree Priorities

As part of the process to identify collective priorities individual DATs were asked to give advance notice on areas of work that should be considered for inclusion in the work plan. DATs who submitted items for consideration were asked to speak to their individual item. Members were then split into two groups and tasked with individually ranking each item on a scale of 1 – 10 (10 being the highest priority) members were also asked whether it should be a short, medium or long-term activity. In addition each of the two groups were asked to identify the top three priority areas for action. Combined priorities from both the individual rankings and the two groups have been outlined below.

Areas Identified for Collective Action in Order of Agreed Priority:

- Development of Revised Reporting Arrangements to the Scottish Executive (DAT Ass/Scottish Exec)
- Scottish Prison Service Addictions Service Contract (SPS)
- Supporting Development of Integrated Care/Joint Futures (DAT Ass/EIU/Joint Future Unit)
- DAT Association Drug Related Deaths Informaiton sharing sub-group
- Implementation of TNA findings (DAT/AAT Associations)
- Work on streamlining Funding Sources
- Work Force Planning Forecasting/Reponses
- Internet Approaches to Treatment
- Black & Ethnic Minorities
- Research
- European Bench marking
- Common Assessment
- Family support (no ranking given as continued from previous year)

Areas of Work Continued from 2002-2003

Progress on priorities identified in the October 2002 – 2004 workplan have been outlined in the Annual Report, which is available either from Justine Walker or the Associations' web page. Areas continued into 2003 – 2004 include:

Subgroups:

Strategic Pathways into Employment (chair: Justine Walker, DAT Association)

Rural/Remote Communities (chair: Liam Wells, Forth Valley SAT)

Family Support

Stevie Lydon, Argyll and Clyde ADAT, will continue to lead on family support issues and will formally represent the Association as an external adviser to the newly developed Scottish Network for Families Affected by Drugs (SNFAD)

Implementation of Joint Futures for DATs

This item will be continued into 2003 –2004 through joint work with the EIU and Scottish Executive Joint Futures Unit.

Representation on National Groups/Forums

In addition to various ad hoc Action Team representation on working groups the Association provides formal representation on the following groups:

Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse – Ian Ross, Highland DAAT

Ministerial Drugs Committee - Ian Ross, Highland DAAT

STRADA Advisory Group – Ian Smilie, Perth and Kinross SAT

Scottish Executive National Pharmaceutical Forum/Scottish Medical Scientific Advisory Working Group on Drug Misuse – Justine Walker, DAT Association

Management Committee 'Scottish Network for Families Affected by Drugs' – Advisory member – Stevie Lydon, Argyll and Clyde ADAT

Scottish Prison Service Addictions Contract Group – Rita Keyte, Fife DAAT

2003 – 2004 Proposed Actions (ranked in priority order)

Topic:	Development of Revised Reporting Arrangements to the Scottish Executive (CAPs)
Proposer:	Colin Cook & Justine Walker
Action Proposed:	To bring together a short life DAT Association group to work with the Scottish Executive on reviewing the current Action Team annual reporting arrangements. In particular the group will focus on the development of a revised template for the Corporate Action Plans. Time Scale – November 03 – February 04
Priority Rank:	14 respondents ranked this item 7 or above (Ten ranked the item 10). Four respondents ranked the item 6 or below (Two ranked the item 1).
Other Comments:	Viewed critical that Association work jointly with Executive on this issue. Future arrangements should also link in alcohol.

Topic:	Scottish Prison Service Addictions Service Contract
Proposer:	Justine Walker/Karen Norrie (SPS)
Action Proposed:	To provide Association input and advice into the development of a new tender for addiction services within SPS. Input will take the form of membership of a core group of professionals (both internal and external to SPS). Agreed Association representative will liase with all Action Teams and feed views into the contract review group. Timescale and commitment: 6 meetings between November 03 – May 04

Priority Rank:	Fourteen respondents ranked this item 7 or above (Seven ranked the item 10). Six respondents ranked the item 6 or below (one ranked the item 1).
Other Comments:	

Topic:	Drug Related Deaths
Proposer:	Grahame Cronkshaw/Mike McCarron/Justine Walker
Action Team Area:	Greater Glasgow/Aberdeen City
Action Proposed:	<p>Establishment of Association Drug Related Deaths Information sharing group to run between Jan 04 – Oct 04</p> <p>Background</p> <p>A number of Action Teams areas have established local sub-groups looking at strategies for preventing drug related deaths. One of the most comprehensive has been the Greater Glasgow short-life group chaired by Dr Jane Jay. Other comparable pieces of work have also been taken forwards i.e. in Grampian. The Scottish Executive has also commissioned some work into this area.</p> <p>The Aim of the Association led group would be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull together activity undertaken by individual Action Teams • Contrast and share lessons from across the individual Action Team sub-groups • Identify transferable learning <p>Proposed Timescale</p> <p>The sub-group will be initially developed to run between Jan 04 – Oct 04 at which time a report identifying longer term information sharing arrangements will be made to the Association.</p>

Cost Implications:	None
Priority Rank:	Fifteen respondents ranked this item 7 or above (seven ranked the item 10). Six Respondents ranked the item 6 or below (four ranking the item 1). There was also a range of opinion on the timescale for progressing this area of work from immediate to long term.
Other Comments:	Six respondents stressed the importance in pulling together activity on this issue across Action Teams in order to share good practice. Two respondents thought this activity might duplicate other national work already being undertaken. One respondent thought the EIU should be involved

Topic:	Supporting Development of Integrated Care – Joint Activity with EIU and Joint Future Unit
Proposer:	Justine Walker/David McCue (EIU)
Action Proposed:	The DAT Association, EIU and Joint Future aim to team up on seminars in the early part of 2004. Seminars will be held at local level in collaboration with one or more Action Teams. They will focus on key themes from ‘Integrated Care for Drug Users’ and the Joint Future agenda which need to be addressed together, e.g. joint management, single shared assessment and co-ordination of planning and delivery of care. In particular seminars will explore the implications for planning and practice at local level.
Cost Implications:	Possible cost of hosting seminars
Priority Rank:	Fifteen respondents ranked this item 7 or above (Four ranked the item 10). Six respondents ranked the item 6 or below (one ranked the item 1). In general the timescale for taking this forwards was seen as immediate.
Other Comments:	Two respondents thought the approach proposed was not the most appropriate way of taking the activity forwards. Four respondents felt that the SAAAT should be involved.

Topic:	Implementation of TNA findings
Proposer:	Justine Walker/Ian Ross
Action Team Area:	DAT Association & SAAAT Association sub-group
Action Proposed:	<p>To review and implement, where appropriate, the seven recommendations arising from the Analysis of the Training Needs of Support Staff employed by Substance Misuse Action Teams in Scotland (Norval October 03)</p> <p>In particular to work with SAAAT representatives on the development of an induction framework for newly appointed support staff. Such a framework would be designed to compliment and run alongside local host induction procedures. The purpose of the provision would be to ensure that staff are better prepared and supported when starting work in action teams posts.</p>
Cost Implications:	Yes – commissioning of induction pack
Priority Rank:	Thirteen respondents ranked this item 7 or above (six ranked the item 10). Six respondents ranked the item 6 or below (five ranked the item 1).
Other Comments:	<p>The majority of those ranking this item above 7 felt that this area of work should be progressed immediately.</p> <p>One respondent felt an induction pack was not necessary but a database would give greater added value.</p>

Topic:	Stream lining of Funding Sources
Proposer	Mike McCarron
Action Team Area:	Greater Glasgow
Action Proposed:	A short life working group should be developed to look at the range of funding streams relevant to drugs, including short term funding.

	The working group should develop proposals on how funding streams might be rationalised and short term funding problems avoided by longer-term commitment and sustainability solutions.
Cost Implications:	NIL
Priority Rank:	Eight respondents ranked this item 7 or above (five ranked the item 10). Fourteen respondents ranked the item 6 or below (four ranked the item 1). No clear agreement on timescale for this item.
Comments:	Three respondents view this item as an immediate priority that should be taken forwards with SAAAT members. Two respondents expressed the view that this activity would give no added value. Four respondents linked the item into Joint Futures activities.

Topic:	Work Force Planning Forecasting/Reponses
Proposer:	Jim Dickie Director of Social Work North Lanarkshire Council
Action Team Area:	Lanarkshire
Action Proposed:	<p>In the past two years the Association have undertaken initial areas of work in regards work force planning issues. These have included a survey of work force planning issues across all DATs and the production of an Association position paper (2nd April 2003).</p> <p>In Lanarkshire we believe this is an issue which requires to be considered as a priority. Key issues include:</p> <p>Implementation of Joint Future and Workforce Planning Implications. Severe recruitment difficulties in specialist fields such as children and substance misuse. The opportunity to link to national initiatives in Health and Social Work. We have still not resolved all the workforce implications for the very much welcomed and needed drugs allocations. Further funding for drug services and expected developments in the alcohol field require workforce planning to be taken forward.</p> <p>To ensure that this issue maintains momentum it is proposed to develop a DAT Association Work</p>

	<p>Force Planning sub-group with a remit to look at the following issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for national forecasting to assist areas. • Identification of local work force planning developments/initiatives • The development of a framework guidance note for Action Teams on work force planning forecasting. • Negotiating work force planning issues with Scottish Executive, STRADA and other relevant bodies including the FE sector. • To explore opportunities for regional European bids, particularly in regards enhancing FE based pathways into the drugs and alcohol sector. <p>Membership of the group would include Action Team representatives together with co-opted members</p>
Cost Implications:	Possible cost involved in the development of framework guidance note
Priority Rank:	Twelve respondents ranked this item 7 or above (three ranked the item 10). Six respondents ranked the item 6 or below (nil ranked the item 1). Those ranking the item higher than 7 in general viewed the activity as immediate – medium term.
Other Comments:	Need to link into NHS pay modernisation Agenda and Change.

Topic:	Internet Approaches to Treatment
Author:	Grace Ball, Justine Walker, Ian Ross
Action Team Area:	Highland DAAT and Aberdeenshire ADAT
Action Proposed:	<p>As identified for consideration from the European study visit it is proposed to explore the development of a self-help pathway of care pilot through the Internet (as currently operating in Amsterdam). This is seen as a particularly useful additional resource for those;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who do not want to access traditional drug services, • Individuals in remote/rural areas, and • Individual's requiring/seeking minimal intervention.

Cost Implications:	Possible
Priority Rank:	Nine respondents ranked this item 7 or above (1 ranked the item 10). Ten respondents ranked the item 6 or below (one ranked the item 1).
Other Comments:	Those in rural areas expressed most interest in taking this issue forwards.

Topic:	European Bench Marking - Study Visit
Proposer:	Grahame Cronkshaw
Action Team Area:	Aberdeenshire Alcohol & Drug Action Team
Action Proposed:	Building on the informative visit to Holland in February 2003, another European Study Visit should be organised in 2004. Possible visits could include Switzerland or Germany
Cost Implications:	Yes
Priority Rank:	Eight respondents ranked this item 7 or above (one ranked the item 10). Thirteen respondents ranked the item 6 or below (one ranked the item 1).
Other Comments:	The possibility of a co-ordinated exchange programme was raised. The need to learn from best practice in other countries was highlighted as an important feature (including wider than Europe). One respondent raised concerns over the value that such a study visit would have, as not comparing like with like.

Topic:	Black & Ethnic Minority Changes/Equality
Proposer:	Mike McCarron

Action Team Area:	Greater Glasgow
Action Proposed:	A working group should be set up to bring together issues, needs analysis, responses to black & ethnic minority communities regarding drugs and alcohol issues in order to bring together good practice and identify gaps which need to be addressed. It is also hoped that this will provide an ongoing focus that can inform and support the work of Drug Action Teams.
Note	The training needs analysis of DAT support staff recently reported to the Drug Action Team Association underlined the weakness of DAT support staff knowledge about issues and policies in this area. The Greater Glasgow NHS Board and Glasgow City Council Review of Purchased Services also brought out the weakness in services of responses to black & minority ethnic communities.
Cost Implications:	NIL
Priority Rank:	Eight respondents ranked this item 7 or above (one ranked the item 10). Thirteen respondents ranked the item 6 or below (four ranked the item 1). Those ranking the item higher than 7 in general viewed the activity as a medium timescale.
Other Comments:	Clear view that this area of work should link in with equality issues already being progressed.

Topic:	Research
Proposer:	Mike McCarron
Action Team Area:	Greater Glasgow
Action Proposed:	That a short life working group be set up to examine the way in which research is being integrated into Drug Action Team policy and service development across Scotland. The short life working group would make a report to the DAT Association with recommendations, which might include proposing a framework within which research and the application of research can be carried forward through people meeting in a Scotland wide network.
Cost Implications:	NIL

Priority Rank:	Five respondents ranked this item 7 or above (one ranked the item 10). Thirteen respondents ranked the item 6 or below (four ranked the item 1). Those ranking the item higher than 7 in general viewed the activity as an immediate one.
Other Comments:	Those ranking the item 7 or above in general expressed the need for a more co-ordinated approach to both research and evaluation by Action Teams.

Topic:	Common Assessment
Proposer:	Sharon Hackney
Action Team Area:	Ayrshire and Arran
Action Proposed:	From informal discussion it is apparent that many areas are working on a common assessment tool. Proposed action: liase with EIU and interested DATS to develop a common assessment tool that can be used nationally.
Cost implications:	Nil
Priority Rank:	Three respondents ranked this item 7 or above (nil ranked the item 10). Fifteen respondents ranked the item 6 or below (five ranked the item 1).
Other Comments:	Those who ranked this item higher thought that it should link with the SAAAT. Concern was expressed that this was very similar to single shared assessment and therefore already being undertaken.

Topic:	Family support
Proposer:	Stevie Lydon
Action Team Area:	Argyll & Clyde
Action Proposed:	Following on from earlier development work it is proposed that Stevie Lydon continue to act as link support to the new Scottish Network for Families Affected by Drugs (SNFAD) to the Association.

Cost Implications:	Possibly a small contribution to an open event:
Priority Rank:	No priority ranking given as continued from previous year with amendments of SNFAD representation
Other Comments:	General Comments viewed this as an accepted area of ongoing work

Additional items raised at the meeting for inclusion either through the work plan or normal Association business meetings included:

- Proposed developments of Evaluation for Drugs Education Programmes
- Implications arising from Direct Payments
- New GP and Pharmacy contracts