



NOTES OF MEETING OF ASSOCIATION OF DRUG ACTION TEAMS IN SCOTLAND

**THE STIRLING HIGHLAND HOTEL
SPITTAL STREET, STIRLING**

28 MAY 2002

PRESENT:

**DCC David Mellor, Fife DAAT Chairperson (CHAIR)
Mrs Vered Hopkins, Information & Research Officer, Fife DAAT
Ms Lindsay Burley, Borders DAT Chairperson
Ms Julie Murray, Borders DAT DDO
CC David Strang, Dumfries & Galloway DAAT Chairperson
Ms Karyn Tait,
Mrs Wai Yin Hatton, Ayrshire & Arran DAT Chairperson
Ms Sharon Hackney, Ayrshire & Arran DAT DDO
Ms Lis Hill, Tayside ADAT Co-ordinator
Ms Susan Somerville, Perth & Kinross DAT DDO
Ms Marion Logan, Forth Valley SAT Co-ordinator
Mr Angus Mackay, Western Isles DAT Co-ordinator
Ms Kay Geddes, Aberdeen City DAT DDO
Mr Brian Gardner, Highlands DAT DDO
Mr Ian Ross, Highlands DAT Chairperson
Ms Justine Walker, DAT Association National Officer
Mr Mike McCarron, Greater Glasgow DAT Co-ordinator
Mr Stevie Lydon, Argyll & Clyde DAT Co-ordinator
Ms Hazel Morrell, East Lothian DAT ADDO
Ms Lis Coates, Midlothian DAT DDO
Mr Gordon Miller,
Mr Sandy Cameron, Lanarkshire DAAT Chairperson
Ms Valerie Tallon, Lanarkshire DAAT DDO
Mrs Eleanor Robertson
Ms Elaine McKenna
Ms Catherine Evans
Mr Jamie Pitcairn
Ms Beverley Harkins, DAT Association (Minutes)**

PRESENTATIONS:

**Dr Adrian Bonner – Head of Addiction Services, The Salvation Army Social Programme, UK
Major Dean Logan – Co-ordinator & Development Officer, Salvation Army Addiction Services, Scotland
Warren Hawksley – Director of Resolv
Ralph McGregor - Resolv**

1. Welcome & Apologies

David Mellor welcomed members to the meeting and thanked members for the good attendance level. Apologies were received and noted for all members who were absent from the meeting.

2. Minutes of meeting held 20th February 2002

One amendment raised was that Grace Ball is now Aberdeenshire DAT DDO and not Aberdeen City. Other than this one amendment, the minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters arising from last meeting

- 3.1** In relation to item 4 of the previous minutes, Mr Mellor informed members that Jim Orr would be invited to the next Association meeting to discuss the evaluation of the 'Know the Score' campaign.

Action: David Mellor

- 3.2** (Item 5 of previous minutes). Mr Mellor informed the Association that the amended Terms of Reference have now been approved and that Ian Ross, Highland DAAT Chairperson had been nominated for position of Vice Chair of the Association. The question of the Associations structured work-plan was raised. Ms Walker stated it had been agreed that the work-plan would be discussed at the October Priority Setting meeting but did state that 3 business meetings a year had been confirmed.

- 3.3** A sub-group has been set up to aid SDF in their proposals for Community Engagement. A report on the work being done on this topic will be distributed to members after the meeting.

4. Presentation from the Salvation Army Addiction Services

Dr Adrian Bonner gave a full presentation on the work that the Salvation Army is currently undertaking within its Addiction Service. When the service was initiated in 1998 the four main aims were;

- To develop high quality specialist addiction recovery programmes delivered by appropriately trained staff,
- To provide support for people with substance misuse problems in both residential and community settings,
- To raise awareness of substance misuse problems affecting both children and their parents,
- To research the nature of addictive behaviours in order to enhance therapeutic efficacy.

Dr Bonner stated the key elements in developing the Addiction Service further, these are outlined below;

- To provide high quality on-going professional development of staff,
- To provide centrally resourced monitoring and evaluation service,
- To develop service provision within an evidenced based framework, linked to a university-based researched strategy,
- To maintain and develop quality standards in line with national guidance
- To deliver non-discriminatory services accessible by all regardless of sex, creed, culture or ethnicity.

There are currently fourteen centres in Scotland which provide a diversity of support for their local populations. Some of these centres have well-developed services including detoxification and rehabilitation services, others are in the process of developing direct access and resettlement services to support the needs of substance misusers

Dr Bonner emphasised his hope that links between DAT's and the Salvation Army Addiction Service will increase to work in partnership.

Dr Bonner introduced Major Dean Logan who has recently been appointed to Co-ordinator & Development Officer of the Addiction Service in Scotland. Major Logan also emphasised his hope of partnership working with the DAT's and would like to identify areas where the Salvation Army resources can be used to develop. He stated that the Salvation Army have the manpower, training, expertise to enhance developments but need the backing of local DAT's.

David Mellor thanked both Dr Bonner and Major Logan for raising awareness of the work being done by the Salvation Army and for their presentation.

5. Home Affairs

The Home Affairs Select Committee 3rd Report on the UK Drugs Strategy was tabled which lists the key elements and recommendations. Mr Mellor's view on the paper was that the Committee have essentially focussed on a range of implementation issues within the Drug Strategy in England and Wales, although makes a number of recommendations which would effect the Misuse of Drugs Act. Mr Mellor asked for views and comments on the key issues within the report and discussion followed.

Some issues raised are outlined below:

- Differences in Scotland to that of England and Wales,
- Need to look more evidence on the impact that reclassification will have,
- The importance of the Association to take a view on key principles such as related harm-related etc.

Mr Mellor concluded that the Association is happy to welcome the publication because there are issues, which need to be debated such as focusing on minimising harm caused by substance misuse. Association agreed.

6. Needle Exchange Guidelines

Issues were raised to the Minister at the Association meeting in February regarding the Needle Exchange Guidelines. The Scottish Executive sent back correspondence asking for an initial response to their proposed view at looking at the guidelines, this is explained within the distributed paper. Ms Walker spoke with a number of DAT's and sent back an initial response, copy of which is included in distributed papers. Ms Walker is hoping for the Association to give a formal response and asked for views on this matter. Ms Walker explained that the Executive is proposing to take away the upper limit on the amount of needles that can be exchanged at any one visit. She informed the Association that there was concern raised from some DAT's regarding the protection of staff at a local level from private prosecution by family members due to a drug related death. Ms Walker concluded that the feeling from the DAT's was to have guidelines but to increase the upper limit to 50. A few concerns were raised regarding the guidelines, these are outlined below;

- Key agencies would like to keep the upper limit
- Public's perception of the situation not being controlled
- Will number of needles given out actually be exchanged back in?

The decision was made that Ms Walker would draft a response to the Executive to amend the paper to say that the Association have discussed issues and wish to return to the original request of NO upper level although at a local level they may want to have a limit.

Action: Justine Walker

David Mellor explained to the Association that Greater Glasgow had received the distributed letter and would like comments and views put forward to aid Greater Glasgow DAT in their response. The main view taken by the Association was that the local vehicle needed to be identified to allow local issues to be resolved.

7. SPS/Cranstoun Transitional Care

David Mellor asked for a follow up debate to the discussion at the last Association meeting on the Transitional Care arrangements to identify what information local DAT's want to receive from SPS monitoring and how this information should be fed into DAT's.

Justine Walker informed the Association that DAT representatives have met with SPS to discuss the issues and also the development of the cluster meetings has taken place to speed up the process of giving information. The cluster meetings also looked at how sub-contractors can be linked into local areas and how to agree on local information systems. From the cluster meetings a number of issues were raised one of which was the concern of the amount of information that Cranstoun are collating and giving to SPS on a weekly basis and how DAT's need to be within this framework.

Association were in agreement to take work forward on an information sharing template with SPS on people returning to a local DAT area through transitional care. Colin MacKenzie, Marion Logan, Susan Somerville and Justine Walker will carry on this work.

**Action: Colin MacKenzie
Marion Logan
Susan Somerville
Justine Walker**

David Mellor requested 2 representatives from the Association to be involved in the SPS Steering Group which is working on the Inclusion Agenda. Justine Walker will formally agree the position with SPS and then ask for volunteers to come forward in writing.

Action: Justine Walker

8. Employability Strategy Co-ordination

Mike McCarron informed the Association that Greater Glasgow DAT were working on mapping co-ordination issues as a priority and would like other DAT's to come forward with their views.

The main view was to expand the local work of Greater Glasgow DAT to include consideration of issues from other DAT areas and inform of good practice. Association agreed to support this work and will pick up this item at the next meeting.

9. Links between Alcohol and Drug Action Teams

Aberdeen City DAT are looking for agreement from the Association on their structure with their local partners. They are looking at ways to merge with the alcohol action team and map the DAT team. Member's view was that issues within the two areas need to be merged and taken forward although the importance of keeping the distinctiveness of alcohol issues was outlined. Option 'C' (paper tabled) was agreed as being a similar structure of those teams who have already taken the step forward and merged.

David Mellor advised the Association that the Scottish Association of Alcohol Action Teams (SAAAT) are undergoing reorganisation to cope with the new strategy and that he has become a member of a working group to look at reworking their constitution. SAAAT agreed with the Associations Terms of Reference and are using it as a guide document to aid in their reorganisation.

10. Effective Interventions Unit: Integrated Care Working Group

At the last Association meeting it was agreed that the above group would be established after the request from the EIU. Marion Logan, Karyn Tait and Justine Walker have met with the EIU to discuss the need to engage greater with them prior to the publication and to look at implementation issues at an early stage so that the Association can influence that whilst still in development. The Association recently requested that the EIU supply a report of the work of the sub-groups, their remits and roles and to explain how consultations fall into a finalised document. The Integrated Care Report that was earlier distributed was what the Association received as a response.

Marion Logan raised her concern regarding the consultations for finalising and that no events have yet taken place to further this before the publication in September. It was identified that no clarity was explained on how the final document will be used by DAT's. Justine Walker informed the Association that she is working with the Executive so that the Integrated Care Document will be launched at the National Seminar in October and also that she has raised concerns that the current work by DATs on Integrated Care be taken into account before finalisation of the EIU document.

11. Scottish Executive and DAT Association National Conference

The Association agreed at February's meeting to host a Joint National Seminar with the Executive with the aim of it being a 2-day working seminar. The intention of the seminar will be to focus on key implementation issues that DAT's are currently working i.e. integrated

care, employment and training services, development of treatment services for young people and commissioning and tendering structures etc.

Justine Walker asked for agreement on the following;

- What the focus of the seminar workshops should be
- Whether the DAT Association meeting should be held on the 2nd day of the conference
- Whether the Association should contribute to the cost of the seminar at the Executives request.

There followed lengthy discussion between members relating to issues around information sharing, consultation before publication of reports and good practice. The suggestion of steering the seminar around Joint Future perspectives was raised and that the need for clarity on the objective of the seminar and who it was aimed at was highlighted.

David Mellor concluded the discussion stating the need to ensure that what is launched at the seminar is reflective of good practice within local DAT areas and that the good practice identified is shared with the Executive.

Justine Walker agreed to write a response to the Executive following today's meeting to give the Associations view. The letter will state that the Association is aware of work happening locally and that the Association feel that the Executive should be drawing on current practice.

Action: Justine Walker

Agreement was made between members that the Association would contribute to the cost of the seminar and that the Associations next meeting will take place on the 2nd day of the seminar (Thursday 3rd October).

12. Human Resources Issues for DAT's

A covering paper and the Draft Questionnaire were distributed with the Agenda.

Justine explains that Human Resources issues around recruitment of DAT staff were raised at a previous meeting but no actual clarity as to what these issues are has been identified. It was agreed at the last meeting that a small group would meet to work on identifying these issues. A Draft Questionnaire has been produced after a meeting between Justine Walker, Marie Hayes and Marion Logan to identify the issues surrounding recruitment. The questionnaire was put forward to the Association for agreement on the appropriateness of the content, Association agreed. It is the intention that collated responses from the questionnaire will help identify where the particular difficulties are in regard grades, geographical locations, statutory/voluntary sector posts, and any local DAT initiatives which have been developed to address the shortfalls. It will be the intention to feed in the relevant information to both the Scottish Executive and also the COSLA/ADSW task group. A report will be prepared for the Association for consideration at the autumn meeting.

13. Family Support Conference

Stevie Lydon from Argyll & Clyde DAAT updated the Association on the success of the Family Support conference and stated that the conference was highly evaluated. The Steering Group are to meet shortly to further the work and a report will be available in 8 weeks.

14. DAT Association Newsletter/Website

Justine Walker asked for member's comments on the proposed plan to develop a website for the Association which will be hosted by the ISD website. Included within the website would be:

- Minutes of the Association meetings (draft minutes would be placed on the website within a month of each Association meeting)
- An events plan of meetings and agendas for both the full Association and sub-group meetings, seminars/briefing sessions, terms of reference etc.

Justine Walker also asked for comment on the plan to develop an Association newsletter focused on DAT information. The aim is to produce the newsletter 3 times a year and that the newsletter would focus on key DAT developments, information sharing and good practice etc. By this information being distributed through the newsletter, space will be freed on the Association agenda so that there will be more focus on strategic discussions on key issues at Association meetings.

David Mellor raised the issue of general communication between DAT's and stated that both the website and the newsletter development may help this. Association agreed.

15. Resolv Scotland Verbal Presentation on Scottish Developments

Ralph McGregor and Warren Hawksley of Resolv gave a verbal presentation of the history of Resolv and the plans for Scottish developments.

Resolv is working to identify and review all the resources relating to VSA in Scotland. This information will help Drug Action Teams to know what is available and what may be appropriate. Resolv currently has a range of materials for professionals working with young people, retailers, parents and young people. It will work to make these materials available and develop new materials to address Scottish or local needs.

Resolv hosts a Freephone National Helpline, Tel. 0808 800 2345, Mon-Fri, 9am – 5pm. Professionals can also access a free on-line training course that provides an overview of VSA and for which they receive a certificate upon completion.

Resolv wants to work with DATs to ensure that there is widespread awareness of these services.

DATs can join Resolv to ensure that there is widespread awareness of these services.

David Mellor thanked the representatives from Resolv for their full and interesting presentation.

16. Date of Next Meeting

As agreed by the Association the next meeting will be held on the second day of the National Conference (3rd October 2002). Further details will be distributed as soon as possible.