

Item 4

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	4
Report/Presentation Title:	National Review of Drug and Alcohol Action Teams	
Author:	National Development Officer	
Purpose of Report/Presentation :	To update members with information about the National Review of Drug and Alcohol Action Teams	
Summary Information:	<p>Since the move of drugs policy from Health to Justice the National Review of Drug and Alcohol Action Teams has become a key priority of the Scottish Executive where consideration is currently being given to its remit and methodology</p> <p>It is as yet unclear if the transfer of drugs policy from Health to Justice will itself have any additional implications as to the remit or outcomes of the review.</p> <p>A discussion between DAT and AAT support staff took place in August 2004 on the subject of the proposed review, a summary of which is contained in the attached report. The issues raised may be of relevance to the areas to be considered by the imminent review.</p>	
Areas for Consideration:	Members are requested to consider the matter of the National Review forward any relevant issues to the Scottish Executive for their consideration.	

Mike McCarron
Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator

Item 5

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	5
Report/Presentation Title:	Proposed DATA/SAAAT merger	
Author:	DATA National Officer and National Alcohol Liaison Officer	
Purpose of Report/Presentation :	To provide information about discussions and proposals regarding the merging into one Association of the Drug Action Team Association and the Scottish Association of Alcohol Action Teams.	
Summary Information:	<p>A meeting took place on 13 July 2005 between the Chairs of both associations supported by the two National Officers. A note of the meeting is attached.</p> <p>A proposed draft constitution for a single Association is also attached.</p> <p>Also attached is a short paper prepared by the two National Officers on the proposed method for addressing business in a merged association which would cover drugs and alcohol issues either specifically or jointly.</p> <p>These papers will have been considered by the SAAAT at its next meeting the outcome of which will be provided verbally to the DATA meeting.</p>	
Areas for Consideration:	Members are requested to consider the outcome of the meetings held between the two associations, arrive at a decision regarding the proposal that the two associations merge and identify any implications arising	

Notes of the Meeting of the DAT Association and the SAAAT Wednesday 13th July 2005

Present: Professor Sandy Cameron, Chairperson of DAT Association
Dr Maggie Watts, Chairperson of the SAAAT
Dr Peter Rice, Vice Chairperson of the SAAAT
Mr. Mike McCarron National Officer, DAT Association
Mrs. Barbara O'Donnell, National Alcohol Liaison Officer

Apologies Mr. Tom Wood, Vice-Chairperson of the DAT Association

Dr Watts outlined the discussion that had taken place at the SAAAT meeting in May and the agreement that the way forward should explore what a joint organization could look like. The purpose of the day's meeting was agreed as taking forward this agenda.

1. **Constitution** – Professor Cameron reported that the question of a proposed constitution had been discussed at the DAT Chairpersons' meeting held in early July. It had been agreed that the existing SAAAT Constitution should form the basis for the proposed joint association constitution. The National Officers were remitted with the task of producing a draft for submission to the two Association meetings to be held in September.

Action MMcC/BOD

2. **Review of Action Teams** – NALO updated the group on notes she had taken on an update on the review of action teams given by Kevin Hanlon, Substance Misuse Division at a recent meeting. It was agreed, in terms of this meeting, that the review should be put to one side. Professor Cameron stated that the DAT Association would be working towards informing the remit of the review.

3. **Joint Issues for the Merged Association** – After discussion it was agreed that whilst there are discrete 'alcohol' and 'drug issues, there is also a number of joint issues that would form the core areas of work for the merged association, such as Hidden Harm, Getting our Priorities Right, Homelessness, support for action team officers.

The National Officers were remitted to scope out the issues that are joint and to identify areas that should remain separate.

4. **Format of Meetings** – At present the two associations have different formats of meetings. The SAAAT has one meeting whereby Chairpersons, Support Officers, other relevant agencies and representation from the Scottish Executive meet together three times per year. The DAT Association has Association meetings that include Chairpersons, support staff and, when invited, members of the Scottish Executive and meetings with Chairpersons that follow Chatham House rules.

This is an area for further consideration. Dr Watts voiced the view that she would wish to retain the presence of the Scottish Executive and other relevant agencies at the merged Association meetings.

The National Officers were remitted to work on a proposed style of agenda for the merged association.

Action MMcC/BOD

5. **Base for Merged Association** – It was reported that developments within ASH Scotland may result in the loss of the current administrative support officer for the DAT Association. The DAT Association currently has 0.5 WTE admin. support whilst the SAAAT has one full time administrative assistant.

After discussion, it was the view of the meeting that, rather than having two different bases for the National Officers, that they should be co-located. One suggestion was that this could be within Alcohol Focus Scotland, the current base of NALO. Dr Rice, declaring an interest, agreed to contact the Chief Executive of AFS to discuss this matter.

Action : Dr P Rice

6. **Financial Provision** – Professor Cameron stated that he would have discussions with Colin Cook, Head of Substance Misuse, regarding the funding provision of financial support for a merged Association.

Action : Prof Cameron

7. **Further Meetings** – It was agreed that the report from the joint officers would be presented to both Associations at their next meetings in September.

Agenda Item No

Remit to National Officers of the DAT Association and SAAAT on the proposed merger of the Associations

Following on from the SAAAT meeting held in May and the meeting of the Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons and National Officers held on 13th July 2005, NALO and the National DAT Officer were remitted to take forward the following:

- A Constitution for the proposed new Association
- A style of agenda that would identify and encompass the joint issues and the specific alcohol and drug issues
- An outline for a merged Association

Appended are draft papers as above.

Further discussion is required to be undertaken on the following areas:

- Support and accountability of the National Officers e.g. advisory group
- Framework/work plan for the new association

Barbara O'Donnell
NALO
26th July, 2005

Mike McCarron
National Officer

Draft
The Scottish Association of
Alcohol & Drug Action Teams
Constitution & Standing Orders

1. **Introduction**

The Scottish Association of Alcohol & Drug Action Teams is a voluntary association representing all Alcohol & Drug Action Teams. Membership of SAADAT does not preclude individual Alcohol & Drug Action Teams having or expressing their own views.

2. **Membership**

The local Alcohol & Drug Action Teams constitute the membership, as represented by the Chairperson, or nominated deputy.

3. **Aims**

The aims of the Association are:

- 3.1 To represent local Action Teams as a body and provide a channel through which central government (including the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Executive), local authorities, COSLA and other bodies may obtain the views of the Association's membership on major policy areas or issues of collective concern
- 3.2 To assist local Action Teams respond to Government initiatives and legislation related to alcohol & drug issues
- 3.3 To ensure that good practice is disseminated across Scotland through the collation of information drawn from the work of local Action Teams
- 3.4 To ensure effective communication across and between local Action Teams and other key local and national organisations on alcohol & drug policy
- 3.5 To ensure the pro-active involvement of local Action Teams in influencing the development of new policy initiatives
- 3.6 To engage with other national forums and professional associations, to ensure the benefits of partnership and integrated working are maximised
- 3.7 To provide facilities for consultation and conference on all or any matters relating to the work of local Action Teams
- 3.8 To ensure that a strategic overview of the implementation of national policy including resource implications is maintained

4 **Representation**

- 4.1 Each local Action Team is represented by the Chairperson and/or nominated deputy and supported by nominated officer/s according to the specialist knowledge required by the agenda.
- 4.2 Each member organisation is entitled to one vote.

5 Officer Bearers

- 5.1 Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson The SAADAT will elect a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from its membership. The local Action Team from where these are drawn will then be invited to appoint a further representative.
- 5.2 Term of Office The term of service for each office is for TWO years renewable for a further term following nomination. In the event of pre-term resignation, a temporary office bearer may be elected for the remainder of the term.
- 5.3 Sub-committees/Working Groups The Association may, as circumstances dictate, establish sub-committees or working groups. The remit and membership of such sub-committees or working groups will be determined by the Association and may include bodies or individuals not in membership of the Association.
- 5.4 Election Any member of SAADAT can stand for election as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. In the event of there being more than one nominee for either position a postal ballot will be held in which each local Action Team will have one vote. Voting papers will be sent at least 3 weeks in advance of the election. The SAADAT will appoint either a National Officer or an Association member to act as scrutineer.

6 Procedure

- 6.1 Decisions will be carried out by a simple majority vote of attendees.
The chairperson will not have a deliberative vote but in the event of a tie may exercise a casting vote.
- 6.2 There will be at least 3 meetings of SAADAT a year.
- 6.3 Convening of meetings and the business thereof shall be as determined by the executive officers supported by the National Officers. However, regarding any concern about governance of the Association, any three members may call for a meeting to be convened by submitting a signed request to one of the National Officers including a statement of the matter to be raised. The Chairperson/Vice Chairperson shall then convene a meeting within 3 weeks.

7. Communication

Unless specifically determined by the SAADAT, only the executive officers or National Officers are empowered to speak on behalf of SAADAT or to represent it in other fora.

8. **Professional Support**

The provision of professional support to the Association will be provided by the posts of the National Alcohol Liaison Officer and National Drug Liaison Officer, whose primary task will be to support and co-ordinate the work of the Association.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL & DRUG ACTION TEAMS

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Previous Minutes
3. Matters Arising

Combined Alcohol and Drug Topics

Support Officer Training and Development

Feedback from national bodies e.g. SMACAP and SACDEM

Feedback from joint working groups

Review of Action Teams

Communication – discussion required on similarities and dissimilarities

Corporate Action Planning

Prevention and Education – joint or specific?

Homelessness

Quality Standards

Alcohol Specific Topics

Working Group progress reports e.g. Information Sub-group, Capacity of Services

Review of the Plan of Action on alcohol problems

Culture

Provision of Services

Protection and Controls

Drug Specific Topics

Working group progress

National Drug Strategy Review and Development

Education Training and Employment – joint topic?

Drug overdose deaths

AOCB

Date of Next Meeting

Item 6

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	6
Report/Presentation Title:	Allocation and accountability for new drug treatment and rehabilitation monies.	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/ Presentation :	To provide members with an overview of the recently allocated additional monies for drug treatment and rehabilitation.	
Summary Information:	The attention of members is drawn to the fact that £2million remains to be allocated by the Scottish Executive with a view to the better alignment of drug treatment to criminal justice provision.	
Areas for Consideration:	Members are requested to consider the issues relating to allocation and accountability for new drug monies and discuss any issues arising.	

Mike McCarron
Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	7
Report/Presentation Title:	DATA budget 2005/06	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/ Presentation :	To provide members with an update on current spend of monies allocated to the Association by the Scottish Executive.	
Summary Information:	See attached information	
Areas for Consideration:	Members are requested to note the information about current expenditure, estimated expenditure and possible availability of funds for developments.	

Mike McCarron
Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	8
Report/Presentation Title:	DAT Association Working Groups	
Author:	Working Group Chairs/Reps	
Purpose of Report/Presentation :	<p>Members will be provided with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation by Dr. Jane Jay, Chair of the Drugs Related Deaths Working Group about its final report and its relevance for the recently published GROS 2004 drug related deaths information. • An update by Anni Stonebridge on the Remote and Rural Sub Group. • An update by Mike McCarron on the Employability Sub Group 	
Summary Information:	Refer to presentation and updates	
Areas for Consideration:	Members are requested to consider matters relating to drugs related deaths and further action by the Association regarding the information provided by the Remote and Rural Sub Group and Employment Sub Group updates.	

Mike McCarron
Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator

Association of Drug Action Teams

Drug Related Deaths sub-group

Recommendations

Action Team and Local Services Recommendations:

Development of Local Action Team Critical Incidents Groups: Continued improvement in liaison between agencies over drug deaths, e.g. setting up a standing drug deaths monitoring and prevention group, involving key agencies to ensure rapid sharing of information on deaths/street drug trends, and to report on progress in implementing proposals to reduce deaths.

Database development: Local services should develop a database containing known details and service contacts of those who died, to be used to improve risk assessment and inform service improvements that avoid breakdowns in care pathways.

Linkages with Accident & Emergency: All Action Teams should consider the experience of the three Grampian Action Teams and review their current relationship with Accident & Emergency Departments.

Improving Witness / Emergency Intervention: All Action Teams should consider as a priority ways of decreasing delays at the scene of an overdose, and methods for raising the level of resuscitation skills among drug users, family members, service providers and social networks.

Key to this recommendation is the expanded delivery of local First Aid training, with a particular focus on dealing with overdose. Efforts should be directed towards peer education, emergency services, and family support groups. Action Teams should therefore identify local structures and resources required for advancing training that utilises both peer and social support networks. A valuable resource for Action Teams in advancing this area will be the new SDF initiative.

Homelessness services staff and homeless people should be considered as high priority for emergency intervention training. For staff this should include improved recording and investigation of non-fatal overdoses, rapid access to addiction services, and development of appropriate accommodation options (with support).

Best Practice in the use of Naloxone: Local Critical Incidents Groups or other similar structures should consider the benefits, particularly within 'hot spots', of the extended use of Naloxone.

Staff Training: A resource pack (including 'Know The Score' materials and wider training presentations) should be developed to assist local addiction managers in familiarising staff with good overdose prevention practice. Such training should form part of a rolling programme. Coupled with this, steps should be taken to emphasise overdose prevention training as part of local training strategies.

Association of Drug Action Teams Recommendations:

Amendment to the Medicines Act:

The Association of Drug Action Teams should consider recommending an amendment to the use of the Medicines Act that would place Naloxone on the 'safe' list for general administration. Such a change would create the opportunity, for those areas that wish to do so, to proceed with local fatal overdose prevention pilots to include the use of Naloxone.

National Strategy, Co-ordination and Communications:

National "Preventing Drug-Related Deaths" Forum:

A national steering group to be developed, with a remit to look at how recommendations from the ACMD 'Reducing Drug-Related Deaths' report and findings of National Investigation can be best implemented across Scotland. Representation should include police, prison, Scottish Ambulance Service, Accident & Emergency departments, Action Teams, and relevant service sectors. This group should look at wider initiatives such as safer injecting rooms and heroin prescription, and how such initiatives might reduce drug-related deaths.

National Communications / "Know The Score":

It is recommended that an updated overdose related publication of 'Know The Score' is published and addresses the issue of 'scene of crime' versus 'medical emergency'.

National Conference

Members recommend that during 2005 a multi-disciplinary conference on reducing drug-related deaths be hosted by the Scottish Executive. Such an event should draw on the experiences of this working group together with the findings from the national investigation.

Drug-related Deaths in Scotland in 2004

Published on 31 August 2005 by the General Register Office for Scotland

This paper describes the system by which the Registrar General for Scotland collects information on drug-related deaths in Scotland and presents selected statistical information covering the period 1996 to 2004.

Introduction

1. This paper gives information about drug-related deaths in Scotland over the period 1996 – 2004, using the definition for baseline figures introduced in 2001. This definition was agreed by a working party set up following the publication, by the [Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs](#) (ACMD), of a report [1] on '[Reducing drug related deaths](#)'. The [Office for National Statistics](#) has also prepared data on drug-related deaths in England and Wales using this new definition.

2. [Paragraph 3](#) below gives some background on the collection of information on drug-related deaths in Scotland; [paragraphs 4 – 11](#) summarise the main points arising from the information for 2004 and earlier years presented in [Tables 1 – 6](#); and [Annex A](#) gives background on the definition of drug-related deaths including a detailed description of the definition used in this paper.

Data sources

3. Drug-related deaths are identified using details from death registrations supplemented by information from a specially designed questionnaire, completed by forensic pathologists, for all deaths involving drugs or persons known or suspected to be drug-dependent. Additionally, the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) follows up all cases of deaths of people where the information on the death certificate is vague or suggests that there might be a background of drug abuse. A copy of the questionnaire currently used is attached ([Annex B](#)). A paper [2] published in June 1995 by GROS described this enhancement to the data collection system.

Summary of results

Recent trends ([Table 1](#))

4. There were 356 drug-related deaths in 2004, 39 (12 %) more than in 2003 but 26 (7%) fewer than in 2002. Within these totals, the number of deaths of known or suspected habitual drug abusers rose slightly, from 216 in 2003 to 232 in 2004, though this was still substantially lower than the figure of 280 recorded in 2002. Table 1 also shows that there was a large increase in the number of drug-related deaths coded to 'accidental poisoning'. It is possible that this change may be due to poorer quality information being available on those who were known drug abusers.

Health board areas ([Tables 2 and 3](#))

5. Of the 356 deaths in 2004, 120 (34%) occurred in the Greater Glasgow Health Board area. Grampian with 39 (11%) had the next highest total and was closely followed by Lothian with 36 (10%), Argyll & Clyde with 35 (10%) and Lanarkshire with 33 (9%). The Greater Glasgow total showed an increase of 13 since 2003, and there were increases of 8 in both Argyll and Clyde and Lanarkshire. However, Lothian had 4 fewer deaths than in 2003.

6. Because of the relatively small numbers involved, particularly for some health board areas, and the possibility that more complete information has been reported in recent years, care should be taken when assessing the trends shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Age groups and sex ([Table 4](#))

7. Most deaths (87%) were to persons aged under 45, with almost a quarter (23%) aged under 25. Of the 45 cases aged 45 and over, only 19 were known, or suspected, to be drug-dependent. Men accounted for 81% of the 356 drug-related deaths in 2004. Some two-thirds (67%) of the male deaths were of known or suspected drug abusers compared to only 55% of the female deaths.

Types of drug involved ([Tables 5 and 6](#))

8. Tables 5 and 6 give information on the involvement of selected drugs, either alone or, more commonly, in combination with other drugs. Since the tables record individual mentions of particular drugs they involve double counting of some deaths. It is believed that for the overwhelming majority of cases where morphine has been identified in post-mortem toxicological tests its presence is a result of heroin use. The tables therefore show a combined figure for 'heroin/morphine'.

9. In 2004, the drugs listed in the Tables were known to be involved in 303 (85%) of the 356 deaths. Heroin/morphine was involved in 225 (63%) of the deaths; diazepam was involved in 113 (32%) of the deaths; and methadone was involved in 80 (22%) of the deaths. Cocaine and ecstasy were involved in 38 and 17 cases respectively. A wide range of drug combinations was recorded. Of particular note was the fact that diazepam was also mentioned in 76 (34%) of the 225 deaths involving heroin/morphine. The presence of alcohol was mentioned for 116 of the 356 drug-related deaths in 2004. The blood-alcohol level was not given for all cases but, where mentioned, it was often at a relatively low level.

10. [Table 5](#) shows that, since 1996, there has been a significant increase in the involvement of heroin/morphine. The numbers of deaths involving diazepam peaked in 2002 since when it has dropped back significantly. Since 1996, there have also been marked increases in the smaller numbers involving cocaine and ecstasy. However, whilst the number of deaths involving cocaine has continued to increase recently, that for ecstasy has fallen slightly in recent years. Between 1996 and 2000 there was a downward trend in the number of deaths involving methadone, but there has been an increase since then, almost back to the 1996 level (100). The table also shows a substantial decline in the number of deaths involving temazepam between 2003 and 2004.

11. [Table 6](#) shows some geographical differences in the reported involvement of certain drugs. For example, heroin/morphine was mentioned in a larger proportion of the deaths in Greater Glasgow (85 out of 120) and Grampian (26 out of 39) than in Lothian (17 out of 36). Greater Glasgow also showed a relatively high proportion (39 out of 120) involving

methadone. This contrasts the very low proportion (2 out of 39) in Grampian. The table also shows that diazepam was involved in almost a half (57 out of 120) of the deaths in Greater Glasgow.

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	9
Report/Presentation Title:	The Scottish Network of Families Affected by Drugs	
Author:	Stevie Lydon	
Purpose of Report/ Presentation :	To provide an update on some issues relating to the Scottish Network of Families Affected by Drugs.	
Summary Information:	Refer to Update	
Areas for Consideration:	Members are requested to note information provided and any response required.	

Mike McCarron
Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator

Item 10

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	10
Report/Presentation Title:	Service Users Conference Proposal	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/Presentation :	To provide DATA members with information about a possible national conference organised by and for service users.	
Summary Information:	<p>The National Officer has met with service user representatives from different groups in Scotland and SDF support staff with a view to a conference being organised by and for service users in Scotland.</p> <p>The note of the meeting is attached for reference and indicates a willingness of service users to further explore and develop this proposal. If the project takes place it is likely to be in late Spring 2006.</p>	
Areas for Consideration:	Members are requested to note the report and agree, in principle, to consider an application for contributing towards funding a National Conference should the proposal and a programme for such come forward.	

Mike McCarron
Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator

Item 10

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	10
Report/Presentation Title:	Service Users Conference Proposal	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/Presentation :	To provide DATA members with information about a possible national conference organised by and for service users.	
Summary Information:	<p>The National Officer has met with service user representatives from different groups in Scotland and SDF support staff with a view to a conference being organised by and for service users in Scotland.</p> <p>The note of the meeting is attached for reference and indicates a willingness of service users to further explore and develop this proposal. If the project takes place it is likely to be in late Spring 2006.</p>	
Areas for Consideration:	Members are requested to note the report and agree, in principle, to consider an application for contributing towards funding a National Conference should the proposal and a programme for such come forward.	

Mike McCarron
Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	11
Report/Presentation Title:	Policy Development and Practice Exchange Seminars	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/ Presentation :	To outline a two fold series of seminars. One regarding practice exchange the other regarding policy and strategy co-ordinated by the Drug Action Team Association.	
Summary Information:	<p>Practice Exchange Seminars The DAT Support Officers meeting in the morning of 23 September will consider the issue of setting up a series of practice exchange seminars and suggestions about topics to be included. Information about this will be provided verbally to the full Association meeting in the afternoon. This series of events will have additional relevance at a time when services have now been developed in the fields of treatment and rehabilitation and particular projects with transferability may have been developed in one part of Scotland and of interest to the rest or others. Likewise, with the Effective Interventions Unit dissemination mechanisms no longer being available even greater need is required for linking and exchanging good practice across Scotland.</p> <p>Policy and Strategy Seminars Since a number of years have now elapsed since the launch of the National Strategy to tackle drug misuse problems in Scotland and since a considerable amount of new services have been established in the field of treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration, it is an opportune time to take stock of the effectiveness of current policy</p>	

	<p>and strategy and refinements or different balances required for the future. A series of four seminars covering drugs policy and strategy areas is proposed over the next twelve months in order to equip DAT Chairs both individually and collectively in making their contribution to debate about National Policy and Strategy and its impact on tackling drug misuse currently and in the foreseeable future.</p> <p>In order to assist the DAT Association a partnership is proposed with the journal Drug and Alcohol Findings to inform the two fold series of seminars so as to secure maximum benefit from the events.</p>	
<p>Areas for Consideration:</p>	<p>DATA members are requested to consider the proposal for the two fold series of seminars and the proposed partnership with Drug and Alcohol Findings.</p>	

Mike McCarron
Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator

DRAFT

Partnership between the Drug Action Team Association in Scotland and Drug and Alcohol Findings

Aim

To assist, over a twelve months period, DATA develop an understanding of current drugs (and alcohol) policy and practice in Scotland informed by international research.

Objectives

1. To establish four research and policy seminars aiming to assist DAT chairs and key partners take stock of the current situation regarding Drugs (and Alcohol) Strategy and form a collective view about key strategy issues and policy directions.
2. To inform a series of 6 practice exchange seminars between DATs in Scotland.
3. To provide DATA with regular (bimonthly?) information relating research and practice for circulation to Scottish DATs and partners.

Implementation

The DATA National Officer, Mike McCarron, will liaise with Mike Ashton Editor of Drug and Alcohol Findings regarding each objective as follows:

Objective 1

- To choose in consultation with the DATA chair and vice chair 4 contributors to lead a series of 4 seminars for 30 to 50 participants looking at research findings about drugs (and alcohol) where the contributor is an internationally recognised expert in their area of knowledge and has conclusions fundamentally challenging for current drugs (and alcohol) policy.
- To frame a structure for debate, under Chatham House rules, which helps participants focus on the implications for the Scottish context with a view to seeking consensus about consolidation of specific aspects of current policy and practice, developments over the next 5 years that are feasible within existing Scottish strategy and legislation, and issues requiring changes in strategic direction or legislation.

Objective 2

- To agree with DAT support staff a series of 6 seminars each focussing on an example of good practice from one part of Scotland, which has the potential to be transferred to other parts and which contributes to key aspects of national drugs strategy.
- To prepare and inform each seminar, which reference to wider international research findings as indicated by Alcohol and Drug Findings.

Objective 3

- To provide the National Officer with regular information drawing attention to new research findings relevant to current policy and practice for circulation by email to DATs

Outcome

At the end of 12 months, informed by reports from the National Officer on the above activities, DATA will have established a range of policy and practice perspectives better equipping the organisation to contribute to the consolidation, review and development of drugs (and alcohol) policy, practice and research in Scotland and to inform wider debate about current and future strategy.

Item 12

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	12
Report/Presentation Title:	DAT Association visits to services in England	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/Presentation :	To propose a DATA sponsored visit by DATA reps to a number of key services in England which may be useful to inform the development of services and policies in Scotland.	
Summary Information:	<p>A very successful visit was made by DATA members and others to Holland in 2003 about which a full report was produced.</p> <p>A number of Conferences in Scotland over the last 2 years have been informed by contributors from different European countries about areas of interest and relevance to the Scottish context e.g. in regard to harm reduction, treatment, social reintegration, residential services and drug related deaths.</p> <p>However, it is felt that there are also opportunities to learn and contribute within the UK context, in this case by visits to some selective services in England. Although Scotland is located broadly within a UK Drugs Strategy, there have been different approaches and priorities in England about which it may be of benefit for planners and service providers in Scotland to be knowledgeable.</p>	
Areas for Consideration:	DATA members are requested to consider the proposal to arrange a visit to selected services in England.	

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	13 (i)
Report/Presentation Title:	SE Homelessness and Addictions Working Group	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/ Presentation :	To inform DATA members about the SE Homelessness and Addictions Working Group.	
Summary Information:	<p>Following on a National Conference about homelessness and addictions organised by the Scottish Executive in March 2005 about which a report has been made available, a Working Group has been set up by the Scottish Executive to carry forward the issues arising, of which the National Officer is a member</p> <p>The Working Group provides an opportunity to draw together national policy/strategy and programme funding information as well as what is happening in the local DAT areas.</p> <p>Information provided to the Corporate Action Plan 2004/05 about homelessness and addictions showed a patchy response across Scotland. There is, therefore, room for further development in some areas and also consideration of good practice exchange.</p>	
Areas for Consideration:	DATA members are requested to note the information provided.	

Item 13.ii

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	13 (ii)
Report/Presentation Title:	SE Quality Standards Working Group	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/Presentation :	To inform DATA members of the setting up a Scottish Executive led Quality Standards Working Group.	
Summary Information:	<p>One of the recommendations of the National Review of Treatment and Rehabilitation Services was to improve the quality of current drug services.</p> <p>In order to do this the Scottish Executive have set up a Working Group with different partners as members, including the National Officer and Marion Logan of Forth Valley DAT. A full time member of staff to support the work of this group has been engaged for twelve months. One of the early decisions of the group was to widen the remit to include alcohol services as well.</p> <p>As the Care Commission have standards governing residential services this Quality Standards Group is looking to provide standards to govern community addiction services.</p> <p>A draft set of standards is currently being drawn up with a view to being a basis to consult widely with local commissioners, providers and service users in order to arrive at a set of standards supported by those in the drugs and alcohol field. During this process issues regarding the implementation of standards will also be considered and discussed.</p>	
Areas for Consideration:	DATA members are requested to note the information provided.	

Item 13.iii

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	13 (iii)
Report/Presentation Title:	SE Hidden Harm Action Plan Working Group	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/ Presentation :	The Scottish Executive Hidden Harm Action Plan Working Group of which the National Officer is a member is seeking to draw up an Action Plan by Spring 2006. The Working Group will cover both drugs and alcohol issues.	
Summary Information:	In order to fully engage with this priority area Drug Action Teams may wish to form a Working Group supported by DATA in liaison with SAAAT which can ensure practice and services on the ground are able to fully inform the National Working Group and prepare for actions which may be decided in 2006	
Areas for Consideration:	DATA members are requested to consider the information and the proposal to form a Working Group of DAT members to contribute to the National Action Plan Working Group	

**Mike McCarron
Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator**

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	13 (iv)
Report/Presentation Title:	SE Know the Score	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/Presentation :	To provide information to DATA members about discussion with Know the Score personnel regarding communications and future work.	
Summary Information:	<p>The National Officer and National Alcohol Liaison Officer met with Kevin Hanlon of the Scottish Executive regarding improvement to communications about Know the Score campaigns. It was agreed that a Communications Partners Group involving a range of stakeholders would be beneficial in ensuring greater co-ordination and contribution by local and national perspectives to specific campaigns. A note of the meeting and the proposed way forward is attached.</p> <p>The DATA Chairs meetings of 5 July approved, in principle, the Communications Partners Group.</p> <p>As part of Know the Score developments a lifestyle research survey among young people at risk from drugs (aged 10 – 25) is about to be launched by Citigate SMARTS. An outline of the proposed survey and the implications for DATs is attached.</p>	
Areas for Consideration:	DATA members are requested to note the information about KTS Developments and issues arising.	

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Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator

Email re meeting about Communications

From: Kevin Hanlon, Scottish Executive,

To: Mike McCarron, DATA, Barbara O'Donnell, Gillian Bell, Jennifer Jamieson (Alcohol Focus Scotland)

Dear all

Outcomes from meeting today 1 July 2005

Thank you very much for your time today to talk through a range of issues connected with the future development of communications work on Drugs and Alcohol. Here are the actions we agreed: -

1. Kevin outlined the Executive's desire to engage with local communications networks as a means for amplifying national campaign messages on drugs and alcohol. He stressed this did not and would not mean development of a process that relied on agreement by committee. Rather the desire was to create a forum which allowed for local influence and input to be brought to bear in key development stages of any future national campaigns.
2. In terms of key stages, we identified and agreed where local expertise might be used to inform, advise and disseminate the direction of travel being taken in relation to the development of national communications campaigns, namely
 - Strategic development;
 - Creative development;
 - Creative execution; and
 - Post evaluation findings and read across to strategy development.
3. Consensus reached across the group that with transparency and understanding at each of these key delivery stages, a lot of the negative issues being raised around engagement and buy in should be largely negated.
4. Mike agreed to provide an outline at the meeting of ADAT chairs next week of the move towards a collaborative approach to the development of national communication campaigns under the 4 headings listed above and to seek the Chairs in principle agreement to this approach. We discussed the possibility thereafter of there being a standing agenda item at future Chairs meetings where a formal update on communications could be provided.
5. In terms of structure, it was felt there would be merit in creating a communications group, the membership of which to be finalised by the end of July (we did not set a timeline at the meeting so this one is self imposed!) that would include a single representative from the following organisations: -
 - NHS HS
 - AFS
 - DATs

- AATs
- DAT Association
- AAT Association
- SDF

Input from these organisations would most definitely vary depending on the stage of the campaign being discussed and the range and level of expertise that was needed. Importantly the principle of accountability would be one that each organisation would be required to sign up to.

6. Kevin confirmed that Jon Roper, in the absence of this group, would be keen to share emerging thinking on the Alcohol Communications strategy over the next couple of weeks. In terms of key organisations needing to be engaged with early on, the meeting identified Health Scotland, AFS and Maggie Watts as Chair of the AAT association. (please note that some further development work is needed on the strategy so as of today I am not clear when Jon is likely to be in touch).
7. Kevin outlined the SRH slot on Life Matters in September; and both Barbara and Gillian agreed to come back to Jon Roper asap with confirmed named local contacts that could provide a local slant to the planned Parents Guide campaign.
8. Kevin provided a draft copy of the letter to be issued to ADATs inviting bids for funding to support local communications activity on drugs and alcohol. Both Mike and Barbara agreed to provide comments on the draft wording by 18 July 2005.
9. Kevin provided Mike with a copy of the KtS advertising bid that went forward to First Minister earlier this year and which has now been approved. He encouraged Mike to share this as widely as possible. Highlighted that the Smoking Heroin "advert" would be launched at the Drugs Death conference on 8 August 2005 and confirmed that any resources produced that could be used to promote this campaign locally (minimum DVD copy of the ad) would be issued to the DAT Association asap.
10. AFS publications were discussed and the potential for a collaborative approach between the Executive and AFS raised. Gillian agreed to arrange a further meeting following Kevin's return from leave on 18 July.

Apologies for the hurried tone of this note but I was keen to get down what I understood was agreed before setting off on holiday; and thank you once again for your time and for the constructive approach you all adopted during the course of our discussions.

Kind regards

Kevin

Terms of Reference

To provide stakeholder input to inform and support delivery of the development and execution of the Executive's **national** communications activity on both drugs and alcohol by:-

- providing additional research, statistical data and/or case studies that are current, relevant and seen as credible from a service delivery perspective;
- Group members facilitating the sharing of national and individual campaign strategy information with their respective service delivery stakeholders;
- Providing service delivery input to reviewing research criteria that is used for the testing of materials at national level with the agreed target audience;
- Ensuring creative executions are widely shared in advance of launch wherever possible and that settings at local level are identified to amplify national campaign messages and to maximise the potential for target audience reach;
- Considering the research findings from pre and post communications wherever applicable and provide views on how this might be used to shape and inform future strategy development and creative execution at national level.

DAT Association

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	14
Report/ Presentation Title:	European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Abuse - Social Reintegration Questionnaire.	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/ Presentation :	To inform DATA members of the emerging profile of social reintegration issues in European monitoring data and policy development.	
Summary Information:	<p>EMCDDA have issued a new questionnaire about social reintegration of drug users covering education, employment/employment training and housing. The questions address national policy and strategy and local interventions. The questionnaire has to be completed and submitted by end of September 2005.</p> <p>DATA provided funding to support to a European University on the subject in Glasgow last year for which EMCDDA social reintegration research was the catalyst. This has led to a link between Scotland and the Lisbon based EMCDDA unit.</p> <p>The National Officer attended the Summer University in Portugal in June where it was possible to feed back the outcomes of the SU held in Scotland in 2004 and propose initiatives be taken by EMCDDA in the light of the questionnaire information being gathered currently.</p> <p>A summary of the presentation is attached which outlines proposals from Scotland for development at European level led by EMCDDA.</p> <p>The National Officer is currently working in partnership with the Scottish Executive and the UK drugs focal point in the Department of Health London regarding the UK return of the questionnaire. It is hoped that the information gathered through the questionnaire will be a basis for development in addressing these issues in Scotland and UK whilst at the same time contributing to the wider exchange and discussion amongst European countries.</p>	
Areas for Consideration:	DATA members are requested to note the information and request the National Officer to continue to act on behalf of DATA in informing EMCDDA of these issues and promoting further exchange activity at European level led by EMCDDA.	

Mike McCarron
Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator

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		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	15
Report/ Presentation Title:	The Royal Society of Arts Commission on Illegal Drugs, Communities and Public Policy	
Author:	National Officer	
Purpose of Report/ Presentation :	To inform DATA members of the RSA Commission and ways in which DATA can contribute information.	
Summary Information:	<p>The RSA Commission on Illegal Drugs, Communities and Public Policy will meet over the next twelve months to consider a range of issues, information and perspectives.</p> <p>Susan Deacon MSP is the sole Scottish member of the Commission and is interested in working with DATA amongst other stakeholders to support her contribution to the Commission and possibly other ways of informing them about the Scottish context.</p> <p>The Commission provides an opportunity to look at issues surrounding illegal drugs and their impact in communities with a view to taking stock of current policy, strategy and service provision and informing public policy directions in the longer term.</p>	
Areas for Consideration:	DATA members are requested to note the information and agree that DATA should support the Scottish Representative on the Commission in regards to provision of information about illegal drugs, communities and public policy in Scotland.	

Mike McCarron
Greater Glasgow Drug Action Team - Co-ordinator

The RSA Commission on Illegal Drugs, Communities and Public Policy

Is drugs policy working? If not, why not?

The RSA Commission on Illegal Drugs, Communities and Public Policy was set up to take a fresh look at these questions and try to untangle the complex knot of issues commonly referred to as 'the drugs problem.'

Drugs policy

The government's current drug strategy seeks to tackle drug abuse first and foremost as a means of reducing crime. Treatment is most easily accessed through the criminal justice system, and the success of the strategy is measured more in terms of crime reduction than by the more general criterion of 'harm reduction' - harm to drugs users and their families as well as harm to communities, the economy and the taxpayer. Have we got our priorities right?

Problematic drug use is a medical and social problem as well as a problem for the criminal justice system. Thousands of people in different areas of government, local government, the voluntary and the private sector are working to reduce the damage it causes. How can we best balance and integrate their efforts?

Fostering resilient communities

In addressing the RSA's manifesto challenge of 'fostering resilient communities', the RSA Commission will explore the idea that some of the solutions to delivering a coherent drugs policy are to be found where the problems are most directly experienced - in communities.

Drug use continues to rise - but is all drug use necessarily abuse? Is it a symptom of social decline which we should be seeking to eradicate? Or a fact of life which we simply need to manage? Are public attitudes to drug use really as simple and as hostile as the media say and politicians believe they are?

The RSA Commission will examine the 'drugs problem' beyond the bounds of a political context which makes true open-mindedness very difficult, and hopes to find fresh answers to some of these most intractable questions.

Note

The Home Office has estimated the economic cost of Class A drug use to the country as around £3.5 billion, and the social costs at between £10 and 17 billion. Current expenditure aimed at cutting these costs is £1.3 billion - but is it being spent in the most effective way?