

## **Drug Related Deaths Sub-Group**

Wednesday 4 February 2004, Stirling Municipal Council Buildings

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

**Present:**

Liam Wells

Justine Walker

Dr Jane Jay (Chair)

Ian Smilie

Sharon Hackney

Jackie Davies

Stevie Lydon

Mike McCarron

Caird Forsyth

Grahame Cronkshaw

Leona Paget

Sharon Mahood (minutes)

Justine extended welcome to all members, and introduced Jane as the Chair of the sub-group.

### **2. Background and Remit**

Each member introduced themselves giving a little bit of background information.

Justine provided background information as to why the group was developed, and explained that the group is not duplicating the work of the Scottish Executive, but will focus on different issues. The group will be active until the Scottish Executive releases their report in November 2004 and at that time a re-assessment of the groups' purpose will be conducted. From now until November four meetings of the group will be held.

### **3. Overview of Glasgow Working Group**

Jane introduced herself and thanked the group for asking her to Chair.

PowerPoint Presentation by Jane of findings and identified trends from drug related deaths in the Glasgow area, developed by the Glasgow Working Group. (Copy the slides attached)

Brief discussion on the increasing number of deaths whose primary cause is methadone.

### **4. Drug Related Deaths in Grampian and Action Team Responses**

Grahame provided an update from the Grampian ADAT and presented their findings from data collection over the last 3 years.

Discussion of the importance of A&E and other services in preventing drug related deaths.

Brief discussions on: a) local groups and their contribution; b) the significance of snoring in people who had witnessed overdose and c) the increasing number of older men (over 30) who are dying in drug related incidents.

## 5. Action Team Working Groups/Local Campaigns

Discussion of the importance of establishing relationships with local A&E, police and prison services, it was decided that establishing partnerships should be a high priority for each DAT.

### Local Working Groups

Argyll & Clyde – other legislation data protection

Dumfries & Galloway – preliminary development of a case conference group (but hasn't gone ahead) and a trawl through the present data

Ayrshire & Arran – have a case conference group established and a database with data on drug deaths which has been developed over the past 3 years – now analysing the data for trends and patterns. (All sub-group data is on their website, a link will be created to the DAT Association website). **Action Sharon**

Tayside DATs – Nothing with prescribing protocols, trying to address how the deaths occurred, the primary contributing factors

Forth Valley – has had a data sharing protocol set up for the last 3 years and sub-groups of SAT partners such as police and prisons on board.

Fife (reported by Justine) – reviewing the development of an information sharing group at present.

Lanarkshire (reported by Justine) – have an information sharing group already set up.

## 6. Common Themes

Discussion of how the DATs can help A&E departments, especially for users who are not being admitted, the suggestion was made that an information pack on local services and how to handle an overdose could be distributed, Grampians has already developed this type of idea.

Discussion of better links with prisons and how to develop better processes for transitional care upon entry and exit from prison, and process mapping throughout their time in prison.

Justine advised that they are currently trying to get someone from Prison Services to sit on the sub-group.

Mike put forward that contact with prison should be made a key output required by October, agreed by all. **Action All DATs**

Jane suggested developing a Core Drug Set, containing national and international data to facilitate information sharing and trend analysis.

Sharon stated that Ayrshire and Arran already a pilot Information Sharing System (SAMS) which is shared between all partners, decided that a report of the system would be presented at the next meeting. **Action Justine/Liam**

## **7. Overdose Prevention Campaigns**

Brief discussion on involving family members in treatments, a group set up of which Stevie is a consultant, decided to put this discussion onto the agenda for the next meeting.

Discussion on the remit of the group Justine, Jane, and Liam will put together a draft remit and present it to the group at the next meeting, with a specific focus for each meeting of the group, one to be action team protocols.

**Action Jane/Justine/Liam**

Opportunities for engaging with A&E outreach work to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Grahame to present a paper of options for interfacing.

**Action Grahame**

Going to try and get someone from the Police Co-ordinators Group to be involved with this group.

**Action Liam**

## **8. Date of Future Meetings**

The next meeting was set **for Wednesday 19 May 2004, 11am-1:30pm, ASH Scotland, Boardroom, lunch included.** Please note the change in location ASH Scotland is located at 8 Frederick St, Edinburgh.