

DAT Association – Officers’ Meeting

		Agenda Item
Meeting Date:	21 September 2005	5
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 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</p>	

	<p>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>	
Areas for Consideration:	DATA members are requested to consider the proposal for the two fold series of seminars and the proposed partnership with Drug and Alcohol Findings.	

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.