

# FORTH VALLEY SUBSTANCE ACTION TEAM

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3 February 2005

Forth Valley Substance Action Team (FVSAT) today released a report on the recent 'Involving Communities' conference, an event focussed on how communities can work to address the issues of drug use. Held on 30 November 2004, the conference brought together over 95 community members, workers, strategists and volunteers. Delegates examined a range of issues including how to improve the level of support to drug users and their families, as well as the practicalities of establishing and running a family support group,

Marion Logan, FVSAT co-ordinator, said: "It was excellent to see so many people working together and pooling their energies to help others through the conference. It certainly brought improved understanding of the role of community groups locally and also identified ways of improving the level of support available to drug users, their carers and their families."

Marion continued: "Part of our role at FVSAT is to help with information for parents. Initially we were approached by a number of support groups who felt that by hosting a workshop type event they could share with others practical advice on how to go about setting up and running a group. It was also felt that such an event would be beneficial to those employed to provide community support. In the event the conference was a great success, and Forth Valley community groups requested that a similar event be held annually."

The conference demonstrated how community groups can work together to help manage a difficult problem now affecting many families across the Forth Valley area.

## Editors notes

1. To get a copy of 'Drugs: what every parent should know' contact Know the Score on 0800 587 5879 or visit [www.knowthescore.info](http://www.knowthescore.info).
2. Additional information is attached including (i) a report on the conference, (ii) information for parents (iii) information about local services.
3. FVSAT is a multi-agency partnership established to implement and respond to national strategy on drugs, alcohol and tobacco and volatile substances. FVSAT is supported and guided in this work by a number of forums and sub-groups. Reporting directly to the Scottish Executive on an annual basis it is responsible for the provision, development and funding of substance related activity in the three local authority areas of Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling. The SAT has members from community groups, health, local authorities, police, prisons, & voluntary sector.
4. FVSAT website is available at [www.forthvalleysat.co.uk](http://www.forthvalleysat.co.uk) .
5. Other useful organisations for sourcing information include Scotland Against Drugs ([www.sad.org.uk](http://www.sad.org.uk) or [ww.scotlandagainstdrugs.org.uk](http://ww.scotlandagainstdrugs.org.uk)) and the Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) ([www.sdf.org.uk](http://www.sdf.org.uk)).