



research

**SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
DRUG MISUSE RESEARCH PROGRAMME
2001-2004**

Effective Interventions Unit

Making it work together

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE DRUG MISUSE RESEARCH PROGRAMME 2001-2004

INTRODUCTION

1. This document sets out the programme of drug misuse research that the Scottish Executive will support and fund over the next three years. The aim is to ensure that policy development at a national level and the planning and delivery of services locally is based on consistent, reliable and up to date information and research. The emphasis will be on applied research with outcomes related directly to practice. The programme includes research projects that are currently underway and identifies future research priorities under the four pillars of the strategy.

Background

2. Following the commitment to improving the research and information base, in *Tackling Drugs in Scotland: Action in Partnership*, a Research Sub-committee of the Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse was set up in October 1999. Its remit was to review existing research, identify priorities for new work and oversee the preparation and publication of a Drug Misuse Research Programme. The membership of the sub-committee is listed in Annex A.

3. The consultation exercise that took place over the summer of 2000, demonstrated a high level of support for the programme from the research community and more widely from key agencies and organisations. The main points from the **consultation process** were that the research programme should:

- provide practical guidance and information for practitioners.
- make links to, and between, local research, and take account of experience away from major cities.
- give priority to qualitative research that improves understanding.
- consider alcohol use where it is misused in a similar context to illegal drugs.

We intend to use these points as core criteria that will underpin the development and specification of new research studies.

4. Although the consultation process demonstrated support for the priorities identified, some new suggestions did emerge. In response, we have now included a study into treatment and care services for young people and further investigation into initiatives designed to address barriers to employment.

5. **Following the consultation process the Executive committed an additional £2 million over three years to drug misuse research as part of a £100 million package of spending to tackle drug misuse.**

6. **The Executive would like to thank members of the SACDM Research Sub-Committee, and in particular the chairman Laurence Gruer, for their time and commitment in developing the research priorities and advising on the final programme following the consultation exercise.**

Commissioning and managing research

7. The **Effective Interventions Unit** (EIU) will co-ordinate the research programme and dedicated Central Research Unit research staff, based within the EIU, will oversee the specification and management of the research programme. This will take place in collaboration with colleagues both inside and outside the Executive. For each research study, it is our intention to set up a **steering group** to oversee the direction of the research and provide support on policy and implementation issues.

8. We will commission the majority of projects funded under the programme via the established '**selective competitive tendering**' process used by the Executive's Central Research Unit.¹ However, the Executive will continue to commission drug misuse research using a range of methods. For example, the Chief Scientist Office will continue to consider proposals for health services and public health research relating to drug misusing populations via its established responsive grant funding mechanism.

9. Contractors who wish to be considered for inclusion on tender lists for any of the new projects outlined in this programme are invited to complete an '**Expression of Interest**' form. These, and further details of the commissioning process, are available from: Anita Morrison, Effective Interventions Unit, Substance Misuse Division, St. Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DG (tel: 0131 244 3010 / [email: Anita.Morrison@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Anita.Morrison@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)).

10. We are keen to build capacity in the wider research community so that it is able to respond to the range of topics in the drug misuse research programme. We intend to hold a **seminar** in spring 2001 to promote interest in the research programme across a range of social and health researchers.

Dissemination of research findings

11. From the outset, effective dissemination of research findings has been a key concern. *Tackling Drugs in Scotland: Action in Partnership* stated:

There will be a bias towards applied research with outcomes of practical value to Drug Action Teams and other agencies involved in tackling drug misuse, and an emphasis on the dissemination of research findings in an accessible and useable form.

12. Effective dissemination of research findings is a key priority for the drug research programme, as recommended by the SACDM Research Sub-Committee and supported by responses to the consultation exercise. There will be funds specifically identified for the dissemination of research findings within the research budget. The Effective Interventions Unit will seek to ensure that the messages of research are widely disseminated so that they have a positive impact on the development of policy and practice in the field.

13. We will explore a variety of different means of dissemination, each designed to target different audiences. Dissemination arrangements will include conventional publication and distribution of research reports (such as via the Central Research Unit) and publication in peer review journals. However, we also intend to hold dissemination events and issue digests of research findings.

¹ Further information on this process is available under 'Guidance for Contractors' on the CRU website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/cru/>

THE WIDER RESEARCH CONTEXT

14. It is our intention to work within the wider context of drugs research in the UK and beyond, as recommended in *Tackling Drugs in Scotland: Action in Partnership*:

- Existing research must be critically appraised, and key messages extracted to avoid duplication of effort and to guide policy and service development.
- Research elsewhere in the UK and overseas must be kept under review to help Scotland keep abreast of developments in interventions worldwide.

15. As an initial step, we commissioned a review of research in Scotland, and key projects from beyond Scotland, to inform the development of the Executive's research programme.² We will carry out similar reviews periodically and we will also conduct reviews of key topics areas to ensure that future research projects are focussed on gaps in knowledge.

16. We will take forward the Executive's research programme in the wider context of UK drug misuse research co-ordinated by the United Kingdom Anti-Drugs Co-ordination Unit (UKADCU). The Executive maintains close links with UK research through the UKADCU Research and Information Group (RIG) and other bodies. Some key topics of UK research currently underway are set out in Annex B. A full review of drugs research funded by central government departments over recent years has been conducted by Susanne MacGregor and is available at: <http://www.drugs.gov.uk/research.htm>

17. The wider context of research and information also includes a range of national and international sources (Annex C lists a selection). The range of other bodies funding drugs research include research councils such as the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC). The ESRC, for example, is currently funding a major longitudinal study, the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime. This research is expected to provide useful information on patterns of drug misuse amongst young people.

18. A range of charitable organisations and foundations also fund research and evaluation, for example, the Robertson Trust, Barnardo's, Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Nuffield Foundation. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is currently expanding its investment in drug research, with a focus on young people, communities and families. The Robertson Trust has recently committed £1.1 million to a programme of drug misuse research. This programme is fully supported by the Executive.

² This report has since been published as *Drug Misuse Research in Scotland: The Contribution of Research to Scotland's Drug Misuse Strategy*, compiled by Neil McKeganey and James McIntosh. It is available online at: <http://www.isdscotland.org/statres/research/respublications.htm>

SUMMARY OF DRUG MISUSE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

YOUNG PEOPLE				
PREVALENCE	Extent of substance use among school children			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Underway	UK school survey of smoking, drinking and drug use.	NCSR	2000-01
	Determine trends in prevalence of legal and illegal drug misuse among 12-15 year olds across Scotland, providing valid information to DAT area level			
	Status	Method & Process		
Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom questionnaire on drugs and related lifestyle to large cross-section sample of Scottish schoolchildren. ISD working group considering feasibility. 			
YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK	Growing up with drug dependent parents: child, parent and practitioner responses			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Underway	Qualitative study of opportunistic sample in Glasgow of main parent carers, children and professionals.	Centre for Drug Misuse Research	1999-01
	Vulnerable young people resisting drug misuse (Robertson Trust Programme)			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Underway	Research subjects will be selected from respondents to a school survey who demonstrate high levels of exposure to drugs but have not yet used.	Centre for Drug Misuse Research	2000-03
	Drug misuse and vulnerable young people			
	Status	Method & Process		
	Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study will take three studies previously proposed (prevalence amongst 16-25s / use amongst high risk groups / heroin use) and approach them as related parts of a wider, predominantly qualitative, project that focuses on drug use amongst vulnerable young people. EIU will take forward the specification of this project in conjunction with the dedicated research staff. 		
	Treatment and care services for young people			
Status	Method & Process			
Proposed	EIU will commission a review of current practice, in the UK and internationally, to inform further research and evaluation.			
Evaluation of Lloyds/TSB Foundation Partnership Drugs Initiative				
Status	Method & Process			
Proposed	EIU will work with the programme manager to devise methods of comparative evaluation.			
EDUCATION & PREVENTION	Effectiveness of drug prevention initiatives (Robertson Trust programme)			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Underway	Review of drug prevention initiatives to identify examples of good practice across the UK and internationally.	Centre for Drug Misuse Research	2000-01
	Evaluation of the impact of leisure interventions on illicit drug use and offending			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Underway	Evaluation of the effectiveness and cost effectiveness of four diversion projects aimed at young people.	System 3 Social Research	2000-02
Evaluation of effectiveness of substantive drug misuse prevention initiatives in schools or other settings				
Status	Method & Process			
Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research into the effectiveness of current approaches and methods of delivery a) in school and b) out of school. There will be a focus on the views of young people. EIU to take forward in conjunction with SE Education colleagues. 			

COMMUNITIES

EXTENT AND NATURE OF DRUG MISUSE	Estimating the current prevalence of problematic drug misuse, especially injecting, across Scotland providing valid information to DAT area level			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Underway	Capture and recapture using existing data sets.	Centre for Drug Misuse Research & SCIEH	2000-01
	Determine prevalence of problematic drug misuse among highly socially excluded groups: prisoners			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Ongoing	Analysis of Mandatory Drug Testing data from all adult prisons and youth offenders institutions.	Scottish Prison Service	Ongoing
	Impact of social and economic regeneration on tackling the problem of drug misuse			
Status	Method & Process			
Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to evaluation of impact of SIP funding for projects aimed at tackling drug problems. • EIU research staff in conjunction with SE Development Department colleagues. 			
DRUGS AND CRIME	Evaluate outcomes of Drug Testing and Treatment Orders			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Underway	Systematic follow-up of individuals under DTTOs compared with other alternative to custody schemes (such as Fast Track) and appropriate controls.	Stirling University	From 2000
	Better understanding of the relationships between drug misuse and offending; trends and local variations in drug misuse among offenders			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
Underway	Systematic urine sampling with linked questionnaire of arrestees. Scoping study underway to consider national roll-out.	Centre for Drug Misuse Research	Scoping study underway	
LINKS TO EMPLOYMENT	Effectiveness of New Futures in increasing employability of drug users			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Underway	Monitoring of clients progress and evaluation of outcomes	Local & Regional Development Planning (LRDP)	From 2000
	Review and evaluation of training and employment initiatives for drug users			
Status	Method & Process			
Proposed	Wider review and qualitative evaluation of initiatives to support drug users back into training and employment. Including employer attitudes.			

TREATMENT & CARE

EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT & CARE SERVICES	Determine effectiveness of different types of treatment and care: Drug Outcomes Research in Scotland (Robertson Trust Programme)			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Underway	Systematic follow-up and outcome evaluation of eligible individuals during and after a range of different treatment types.	Centre for Drug Misuse Research	2000-5
	Compare practical effectiveness of substitute prescribing as a treatment for drug users			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Underway	Randomised trial of methadone versus dihydrocodeine	Edinburgh Addiction Study	2000-03
	Status	Method & Process		
	Proposed	Further randomised control trials with for e.g. buprenorphine, LAAM.		
	Evaluate the long-term outcomes and relative cost effectiveness of treatment with methadone.			
	Status	Method & Process		
Proposed	Systematic follow-up of eligible individuals drawn from 1996 Glasgow cohort of methadone users. EIU to take forward with CSO.			
Evaluate the effectiveness of prison throughcare arrangements.				
Status	Method & Process			
Proposed	Evaluation of new throughcare arrangements to support drug using prisoners from entry to release and back into their communities. EIU to take forward with Scottish Prison Service			
DUAL DIAGNOSIS	The prevalence and impact of substance misuse in schizophrenic patients in rural and urban settings			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Underway	Study of patients in inner city, suburban and rural areas; establishment of a cohort for future intervention studies.	Dumfries Royal Hospital	1999-01
	Evaluation of service models for treating co-existing drug misuse and mental illness			
Status	Method & Process			
Proposed	Method to be determined in conjunction with Chief Scientist Office.			
TRENDS	Monitor trends in drug misuse related deaths, particularly those involving methadone.			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Ongoing	Linkage of post-mortem data with pre-mortem demographic, circumstantial and service data.	Various agencies.	Ongoing
	Monitor trends in attenders at drug misuse services			
Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing	
Ongoing	Collection and analysis of drug misuse database returns	ISD	Ongoing	
BLOOD-BORNE VIRUSES	Monitor trends in injecting related Hepatitis B and C and HIV across Scotland.			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
	Ongoing	Analysis of laboratory data.	SCIEH	Ongoing
	Assess current levels of sharing injecting equipment by drug injectors.			
	Status	Method	Conducted by	Timing
Underway	Community sample surveys of drug injectors.	SCIEH	2000-2	
Evaluate effectiveness of interventions designed to reduce transmission of Hepatitis C.				
Status	Method & Process			
Proposed	EIU to consider in conjunction with CSO and Public Health colleagues.			

AVAILABILITY

Monitor trends in the availability of illegal drugs across Scotland

Status	Method & Process
Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic street level “market research” combined with police intelligence. • Link to development of Key Informant Survey • EIU to take forward in conjunction with Scottish Drugs Enforcement Agency and DrugScope • Link to SDF drug trends and Early Warning System work involving drug users

Evaluate effectiveness of initiatives designed to reduce the availability of drugs

Status	Method & Process
Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to development of local effectiveness research currently under consideration by UK Supply Side Research Board • EIU to take forward in conjunction with Scottish Drugs Enforcement Agency and DrugScope

19. The international market in drugs makes it difficult to understand the issue of availability in isolation. In our programme, we intend to link closely with UK, European and international efforts to improve our understanding of supply side initiatives. We are involved with the Supply Side Research Board, a sub-group of the UKADCUC Research and Information Group.

20. Other ‘Availability’ research topics are currently under consideration by the Research and Information Group and we will be involved with these where appropriate. These include:

- Consideration of the merits of supply side interventions measured against demand side interventions.
- Greater understanding of the workings of retail drug markets, to guide DAT/Force level actions and assess impacts of supply-side interventions at all levels.
- Work on the consequential effects of the disruption of markets.
- Assessment of the effectiveness of anti-trafficking methods.
- Construction of an economic model to demonstrate how enforcement efforts can affect the price of drugs.

CONCLUSION

21. The Effective Interventions Unit will now begin the process of commissioning the research on each of the new topics in the programme. The EIU will work closely with colleagues in the appropriate policy divisions of the Executive to develop the specifications and to ensure that they take account of current and forthcoming policy developments and implementation issues. In particular, we want to ensure that research meets the needs of Drug Action Teams and other key agencies and organisations.

EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS UNIT

**Substance Misuse Division
St. Andrew’s House
Edinburgh**

February 2001

ANNEX A

SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DRUG MISUSE RESEARCH SUB-COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

Chair

Dr Laurence Gruer, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Greater Glasgow Health Board (SACDM)

Members and Advisers

Dr Tom Gilhooly, Clinical Director, Lanarkshire Drug Service (SACDM)

Chief Constable William Spence, DAT Association (SACDM) (now retired)

Detective Superintendent Matt Hamilton, Scottish Drugs Enforcement Agency

Mr Peter Knight, ISD Scotland

Mr Brian Callaghan, Scottish Executive, Substance Misuse Division

Dr Joe Curran, Scottish Executive, Central Research Unit, Criminology

Dr Peter Craig, Scottish Executive, Chief Scientist Office

Dr Fiona Spencer, Scottish Executive, Central Research Unit, Education

Mr Sandy Stewart, Scottish Executive, Social Work Statistics

Mr David Liddell, Director, Scottish Drugs Forum

Prof Neil McKeganey, Centre for Drug Misuse Research

Prof Steven Platt, Research Unit in Health and Behavioural Change

Mrs Sally Haw, Health Education Board for Scotland

Dr Avril Taylor, Scottish Centre for Infections and Environmental Health

Secretariat

Originally provided by Mrs Molly Robertson and Mrs Sandra Wallace of Scottish Executive, Substance Misuse Division. The Scottish Executive Effective Interventions Unit has now taken over this role.

ANNEX B

Selection of key UK drug misuse research projects

YOUNG PEOPLE: Projects in progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Studies of Vulnerable Groups: including young homeless people, children of drug-misusing parents, young people leaving care, young offenders, young people accessing drugs services, and young sex workers• Conducted by: University of Kent / National Addiction Centre / Goldsmith's College / University of Essex / Keele University / Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour• Commissioned by: Home Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of the effectiveness of drugs information delivery, based on a cohort study of the NE Choices projectConducted by: University of StrathclydeCommissioned by: DPAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated programme impact report: study of an intensive multi-component approach to drugs prevention.Conducted by: University of ManchesterCommissioned by: DPAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting the needs of pre-teen drug misusersConducted by: University of GlasgowCommissioned by: Dept of Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation of a brief intervention model for use with young non-injecting stimulant usersConducted by: National Addiction CentreCommissioned by: Dept of Health
COMMUNITIES: Projects in progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New English and Welsh Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (NEW-ADAM)Conducted by: Institute of Criminology, CambridgeCommissioned by: Home Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation of Arrest ReferralConducted by: South Bank UniversityCommissioned by: Home Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feasibility study for a National Household Drug SurveyCommissioned by: UKADC

TREATMENT AND CARE: Projects in progress

- National Treatment Outcomes Study
Conducted by: National Addiction Centre / Maudsley NHS Trust
Commissioned by: Dept of Health
- Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for opiate misusers in methadone maintenance treatment programme: a multicentre, randomised controlled trial
Conducted by: St. George's Hospital Medical School, London
Commissioned by: Dept of Health
- Pilot UK Injectable Methadone Trial
Conducted by: Dept. of Social Science and Medicine, Imperial College
Commissioned by: Dept of Health
- Assessment of black and ethnic minority groups need for prevention and treatment services
Commissioned by: Dept of Health
- Hepatitis C and intravenous drug misuse research programme
Conducted by: various
Commissioned by: Dept of Health & MRC
- Co-morbidity of substance misuse and mental health problems (4 studies)
Conducted by: Keele University / Imperial College / Oxleas NHS Trust / Institute of Psychiatry
Commissioned by: Dept of Health
- Effects of waiting for drug treatment (3 studies)
Conducted by: Manchester University / Tameside NHS Trust / National Addiction Centre
Commissioned by: Dept of Health
- Long term heavy cannabis use: patterns and problems
Conducted by: University of Strathclyde
Commissioned by: Dept of Health

AVAILABILITY: Projects in progress

- Sizing the UK Drug Market
Conducted by: NERA
Commissioned by: Home Office
- Middle Market Drug Distribution
Conducted by: Goldsmith's College / University of Durham
Commissioned by: Home Office
- Key Informant Survey
Conducted by: DrugScope
Commissioned by: Home Office
- Heroin Signatures Assessment
Commissioned by: Home Office
- Drug Seizures & Offenders Statistical Series – ongoing monitoring
Conducted by: internal
Commissioned by: Home Office

ANNEX C

The wider context of research and information also includes a range of national and international sources. Examples of useful research resources include:

UK agencies:

- ISD Drug Misuse in Scotland
<http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/>
- Health Education Board for Scotland
<http://www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk/>
- Scottish Drugs Forum
<http://www.sdf.org.uk/>
- EWODOR, Stirling University
<http://www.stir.ac.uk/departments/humansciences/appsocsci/drugs/Ewodor.htm>
- DrugScope
<http://www.drugscope.org.uk/>
- Drug Prevention Advisory Service
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/dpas/dpas.htm>
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/>
- Manchester University Drug Misuse Research Unit
<http://www.medicine.man.ac.uk/epidem/dmru/>
- NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination
<http://nhscr.d.york.ac.uk/welcome.html>
- National Institute for Clinical Excellence
<http://www.nice.org.uk/>

International agencies:

- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
<http://www.emcdda.org/>
- National Institute on Drug Abuse
<http://www.nida.nih.gov/>
- Treatment Improvement Exchange
<http://www.treatment.org/>
- World Health Organisation
http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/
- United Nations Drug Control Programme
<http://www.undcp.org/>

This document is also available on the ISD Drug Misuse Website:

<http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/>

Further copies are available from The Stationery Office Bookshop
71 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH3 9AZ

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