

# EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS UNIT

## RESEARCH UPDATE 5

August 2002

### Introduction

This fifth Research Update highlights recent research publications and outlines current projects for the next three months. Since the last update, two evaluation guides and a number of studies have been published.

### Evaluation Materials and Workshops

We have now published ten monthly EIU evaluation guides. The first eight evaluation guides can be downloaded at [www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/eiu](http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/eiu). These guides will now become 'occasional' and will be published as a supplement to other work that the EIU completes. Since our last update, two guides have been published:

- Guide 9 Evaluating employability programmes
- Guide 10 Evaluating community engagement

The evaluation workshops for Drug Action Teams and associated projects are continuing. Most areas have now run their first workshop. These workshops are organised and facilitated by Partners in Evaluation Scotland based on the evaluation guides published by the EIU. Further information: Anita Morrison ([anita.morrison@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:anita.morrison@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)).

### Prison transitional care evaluation

The contract to evaluate the prison transitional care arrangements in Scotland was awarded in May 2002 to a partnership of Stirling University Social Work Research Centre and System Three Social Research. The pilot phase of the evaluation will be conducted between now and October 2002. The full evaluation will run between October 2002 and August 2004. Further information: Anita Morrison ([anita.morrison@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:anita.morrison@scotland.gsi.gov.uk))

### Review of the Lifeskills Training Drug Education Programme

A review of the evidence of the effectiveness of the Lifeskills Training Programme preventing, reducing or delaying drugs use by young people is being conducted by Niall Coggans at Strathclyde University. A draft report has been received and the final report will be published by the autumn. Please contact Nick Bland ([nick.bland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nick.bland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)) for further details.

### Family Support Literature Review

This review of existing research was commissioned to inform the EIU's work on Family Support. A draft report has been received and the final report will be published by the autumn. Further information: Nick Bland ([nick.bland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nick.bland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)).

### Research on young people's treatment services

The research on young people's treatment services is now complete. The aim was to review current provision and identify issues for future development and delivery of these services. There are two documents. The first is a summary of the survey work, case studies and literature review. The second is a systematic review of the evidence on treatment services for young people. These documents can be downloaded at: <http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/eiu/eiu.htm>

### Psychostimulants

A research-based guide examining psychostimulant use and possible service responses in Scotland is currently being prepared at the EIU. This guide will draw heavily on the work of the Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse (SACDM) Working Group on Psychostimulants that reported earlier this month. The guide will be published in autumn 2002. To read the SACDM report on psychostimulants please go to: [http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/sac\\_psych\\_report.htm](http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/sac_psych_report.htm)

If you'd like any further information about the EIU research programme, or any other aspect of EIU's work, please contact us at [EIU@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:EIU@scotland.gsi.gov.uk). The research program is at: [www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/status/research/final\\_research\\_prog.pdf](http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/status/research/final_research_prog.pdf)

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### Treatment Studies

Two treatment studies are now complete: the survey of opioid services in Scotland conducted by the Health Services Research Unit (HSRU) at Aberdeen University; and the systematic review of treatment services for opiate users conducted by the Department of General Practice and Primary Care at Aberdeen University. These can be downloaded at the EIU publications' website: <http://www.drugmisuse.isdsotland.org/eiu/eiu.htm>

### Hepatitis C

EIU have prepared a publication on Hepatitis C. It examines current knowledge about HCV among injecting drug users and sets out possible prevention strategies. The paper draws heavily on the published literature and work conducted by the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health (SCIEH), the Centre for HIV and Drug Studies (CHADS) and the Health Education Board for Scotland (HEBS) in a practical, readable document. To read it, please go to <http://www.drugmisuse.isdsotland.org/eiu/eiu.htm>

A call for proposals to evaluate interventions to prevent or reduce Hepatitis C among injecting drug users was sent out to all NHS Boards and Drug Action Teams (DATs) in Scotland earlier this year. These can include evaluations of interventions to reduce or stop injecting and the sharing of injecting equipment, and interventions to stop initiation into injecting. The deadline for proposals is 23rd August 2002. A list of successful projects will be posted in the next Research Update. For more information please contact Anita Morrison ([anita.morrison@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:anita.morrison@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)).

### Tackling local drug markets

Plans for an evaluation of the effectiveness of police action against local drug markets have now been agreed with ACPOS Crime Committee. The EIU will now be taking this work forward with the SDEA and three nominated case study areas. The work will involve three elements: identifying and analysing the drug markets; developing policing strategies to tackle the markets; evaluating the delivery and impact of the strategies. The EIU will work with the case study areas on the first two elements and commission an external research contractor to undertake the evaluation. The evaluation should begin early in 2003. More information: Nick Bland ([nick.bland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nick.bland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)).

### Evaluation of Lloyds TSB Partnership Drugs Initiative

We will shortly be commissioning an evaluation of projects funded by Lloyds TSB Partnership Drugs Initiative (PDI) to tackle the problems of drug misuse in children and young people. The evaluation will aim to identify lessons from PDI projects about effective approaches to improving outcomes for young people affected by drug misuse. It will seek to build on and develop existing evidence in this area, such as the recently published EIU research review on young people's treatment services. The evaluation will involve project monitoring of around 12 funded projects and case study evaluation (process and outcome) of a sample of these projects. The duration of the evaluation will likely be 18 months. More information: Nick Bland ([nick.bland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nick.bland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)).

### Scottish Executive Drug Misuse Research Programme – Conference

A conference is being organised by the research team at the EIU on November 18<sup>th</sup> 2002 at Stirling Royal Infirmary. Projects commissioned as part of the Scottish Executive Drugs Misuse Research Programme will be presented and there will be a series of workshops on key topics. Further information will be available in due course.

If you'd like any further information about the EIU research programme, or any other aspect of EIU's work, please contact us at [EIU@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:EIU@scotland.gsi.gov.uk). The research program is at: [www.drugmisuse.isdsotland.org/status/research/final\\_research\\_prog.pdf](http://www.drugmisuse.isdsotland.org/status/research/final_research_prog.pdf)