

## **STOCK-TAKING EXERCISE OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAMS**

### **PETER BATES' REPORT**

#### **Background**

1. In September 2005 Peter Bates, Chair of NHS Tayside, was appointed by Justice Ministers to provide a snapshot of “where we are now” in terms of delivery on the Executive’s drugs strategy, as a prelude to informing the drugs element of the terms of reference for the stock-taking exercise.

2. It was an internal exercise which considered a number of core questions across the range of Scotland’s drugs policies - prevention, treatment and rehabilitation and enforcement. In particular it looked at how much money is being spent; what this “buys” in terms of services; what it achieves in terms of clear and measurable outcomes; who is accountable for achieving these outcomes; and how these tie in with Ministerial priorities.

#### **Key issues**

3. The exercise identified a number of areas where future work is needed to strengthen the Executive’s strategy for tackling drugs and to enable it to be delivered more effectively at a local level. This included revising the national drug targets so that they focus more clearly on outcomes; linking accountability arrangements with the achievement of these outcomes; and following best practice in partnership working.

#### **Links to the Alcohol and Drug Action Team (ADAT) stock-taking exercise**

4. The issues outlined in paragraph 3 helped inform our thinking around the terms of reference for the ADAT stock-taking exercise and will be taken forward in that context. It is also our intention that SACDM should play an active part in helping the Executive take forward these issues.

#### **Conclusion**

**5. SACDM are asked to note the above.**

JD- Safer Communities Division  
September 2006