

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STOCK-TAKING EXERCISE OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAMS

Background

1. The stock-taking exercise of Alcohol and Drug Action Teams (ADAT) got underway in October 2006 and the full ADAT Stock-taking Team (AST) was in place from the beginning of November. It is a crosscutting exercise being carried out jointly by the Health and Justice Departments. Its purpose is to assess the performance of ADATs and examine their capability to deliver Ministerial priorities on drugs and alcohol against the principles of Best Value
2. The exercise is being chaired by Sandy Cameron, also Chair of the Parole Board, and is led by Joan Fraser who has recently returned to the Executive after a period of secondment to the voluntary sector. The other members of the team are two secondees Linda Cunningham, Community Planning Manager, West Lothian Council and Inspector Marcella Houston, Strathclyde Police and consultants, Robin and Lindsay Burley, who together will provide input to the team from a health perspective. Analytical and research input will be provided by the Analytical Services Divisions in the Health and Justice Departments and the Information Services Division of the NHS.
3. The fieldwork will involve visiting all 22 ADATs in Scotland and interviewing the Chair, support staff, ADAT partners and service users. In addition, the team will meet a number of key national organisations and individuals. Over 200 interviews will be conducted between November 2006 and early April 2007. The team will report to Ministers in May 2007.

Progress to date

4. As at the end of December 2006 the team had:
 - Reviewed the ADATs in Edinburgh, East, Mid and West Lothian, Dumfries and Galloway and the Western Isles.
 - Held almost 20 meetings with relevant national organisations and individuals including the Scottish Drugs Forum, Alcohol Focus Scotland, the Chair and both of the National Liaison Officers for the Scottish Association of Alcohol and Drug Action Teams, Lloyds Partnership Drugs Initiative, NHS Health Scotland, Fast Forward, Barnardos, Turning Point and the Scottish Prison Service.
 - Held around 20 meetings with Scottish Executive officials responsible for policies on alcohol, drugs, education, child protection, social work, community safety and criminal justice.
 - Sought comments from other partnerships - for example Community Safety Partnerships, Community Planning Partnerships and Child Protection Committees – about their links with ADATs.

Future activity

5. Future work by the team will include:

- Over the next 4 weeks, reviewing the ADATs in the Grampian, Tayside, Forth Valley and Fife Health Board areas.
- Reviewing all the remaining ADATs by early April.
- Holding further meetings with national organisations and individuals including, for example, Scottish Training on Drugs and Alcohol, Scottish Children's Reporters Administration and Apex Scotland.
- Commissioning additional work on the views of service users.
- Considering approaches to the provision of drug and alcohol services in other parts of the UK.
- Making a report to Scottish Ministers in May.

Conclusion

6. **Members are asked to note the above.**

JD- Safer Communities Division
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