

## **SCOTTISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DRUG MISUSE: TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Background**

1. The Scottish Advisory Committee on Drug Misuse (SACDM) was set up in 1994, following the publication of the Ministerial Drugs Task Force Report, to advise the Secretary of State for Scotland on policy, priorities and strategic planning on drug misuse.
2. Following the transfer of drugs policy from the Health Department to the Justice Department, Justice Ministers asked for SACDM to be re-constituted. The terms of reference set out in this paper are for the re-constituted SACDM and are applicable from September 2006.

### **Remit of SACDM**

3. The remit of the Committee is to:
  - advise Scottish Ministers on the further development of the national strategy for tackling drug misuse and its impact and the future direction and priorities of the strategy;
  - provide an early warning system to Scottish Ministers about emerging drugs issues; and
  - identify, take part in and/or oversee any short-life project groups tasked with taking forward specific tasks as directed by Scottish Ministers.

### **Membership**

4. Membership of the Committee will include representatives from the following sector and organisations:
  - Enforcement – (Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency)
  - Prisons – (Scottish Prison Service)
  - Pharmacy – (Royal Pharmaceutical Society)
  - Medical – (Public Health, Psychiatry and General Practitioner)
  - Voluntary sector – (Scottish Drugs Forum (also includes statutory sector) and Turning Point Scotland)
  - Employability & training/further education – (Scottish Enterprise and Further Education Association)

- Housing/homelessness – (Shelter)
- Social work, including criminal justice – (Criminal Justice Group of the Association of Directors of Social Work)
- Training – (Scottish Training on Drugs and Alcohol)
- Scottish Association of Alcohol and Drug Action Teams (SAADAT) (Chair and Drugs National Development Officer)

5. Other experts/professional advisers may also be co-opted onto the Committee for short periods of time as and when required.

### **Operating arrangements**

6. SACDM will meet 4 times a year.

7. SACDM will be chaired by Bridget Campbell, Head of Police and Community Safety Group and the secretariat will be provided by the Scottish Executive.

8. In conducting its work SACDM will ensure that appropriate links are made with other Executive priorities, including alcohol misuse, as well as the wider issues that have an impact on drug misuse, for example the regeneration/communities agenda and the work of Scottish Enterprise. SACDM will also work closely with other Executive-led groups including the Scottish Ministerial Committee on Alcohol Problems (SMACAP), the National Communications Group on Alcohol and Drugs and those that deal with the wider impact of drug misuse ensuring that they complement existing work. SACDM will also link-up with the UK Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) and SACDM secretariat would ensure the appropriate papers were exchanged between the two.

9. The remit and membership of SACDM will be reviewed every three years, or as directed by Scottish Ministers.

### **Short-life project groups**

10. Short-life project groups will be set up to take forward specific tasks and members of these groups may be drawn from outside the core SACDM membership. The tasks and membership of the groups will be approved by the Deputy Minister for Justice who will meet the groups, as appropriate.

## **Dissemination of information**

11. Ministers wish the work of SACDM to be disseminated widely. The agendas, papers and minutes will be placed on the Information Services Division (ISD) website. We would welcome views on other ways that any information generated can be publicised.

## **Conclusion**

**12. Members are asked to approve the updated terms of reference, in particular paragraphs 3 and 8, which has been revised to reflect comments received at the last meeting.**

JD- Safer Communities Division  
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