

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, the Deputy Minister for Justice, Hugh Henry, 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 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 and Turning Point Scotland)
 - Employability & training/further education – (Scottish Enterprise and Further Education Association)
 - Housing/homelessness – (Shelter)

- Criminal justice social work – (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 linkages are made with other Executive priorities, including alcohol misuse, and the Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD).

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 comment on the terms of reference, in particular the proposed membership and dissemination strategy detailed in paragraph 4 and 11 respectively.