



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Health Department
Substance Misuse Division

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Your ref:

Our ref:

2 October 2003

Dear Colleague

REVIEW OF DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

The Scottish Executive's Partnership Agreement includes a commitment to an urgent review of drug treatment and rehabilitation services, and to provide additional resources to support these services.

We have established terms of reference for this review, and these are set out below:

To review:

- research and other evidence describing effective drug treatment and rehabilitation interventions;
- availability and accessibility to existing drug treatment and rehabilitation services across Scotland;
- delivery arrangements to ensure that integrated and person-centred care services are available across Scotland;
- accountability arrangements between Drug Action Teams and the Scottish Executive.

We have already discussed the scope of the review with the Drug Action Teams, who have been invited to undertake local consultations with interested parties in their respective areas. We will also take forward discussions on delivery and accountability arrangements with the Drug Action Teams. The Scottish Drugs Forum is arranging a series of regional seminars for its members, including views from service users. It is important, however, that we obtain a wide spectrum of views and opinions from organisations who are involved in treatment and rehabilitation work, and this is why we are writing to you to provide an opportunity to contribute to the review.

The checklist at Annex A summarises out the range of issues which we have identified as relevant to the review. It would be appreciated if your comments could concentrate on these issues, but it is, of course, open to you to offer views on any aspect of the treatment and rehabilitation agendas which you consider would be relevant.

Under normal circumstances, the Executive allows a minimum period for consultation of 12 weeks. On this occasion, however, it would be very much appreciated if we could have your comments by the end of November. The rationale for this shortened timescale is that the key stakeholders in the Drug Action Teams who design, plan and deliver services to drug misusers are likely to be aware already of local capacity issues, gaps in services, factors which increase waiting times etc. Although very considerable improvements have been made to drug treatment and rehabilitation services in recent years, we believe that there is scope for further progress in these areas, and we are keen to implement the findings of this review as quickly as possible.

Annex B sets out the standard Scottish Executive guidance on consultations, and I would be grateful if you would take account of this as part of your response.

Yours sincerely

JIM STEPHEN

cc: DAT Co-ordinators
Drug Development Officers

REVIEW OF DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Definitions

Treatment: Drug treatment can cover a wide range of interventions in community and residential settings, including the prescribing of substitute drugs such as methadone and buprenorphine, abstinence-based approaches, including 12-step programmes, detoxification (involving abstinence-based approaches, or administration of drugs such as methadone and naltrexone), counselling and other psycho-social interventions, and alternative approaches including acupuncture and aromatherapy. Treatment programmes often involve combinations of interventions. Treatment is provided by both statutory and voluntary organisations.

Rehabilitation: Should be regarded as an integral part of the treatment process to address multiple problems, and to encourage long term abstinence from drugs. Rehabilitation is undertaken at both community and residential levels, and can, for example, include counselling, group work, addressing family, social, housing and debt issues. Preparing recovered/recovering drug misusers for education training and employment should also be regarded as a key component of the rehabilitation agenda. These services are provided by both statutory and voluntary sector organisations.

Treatment: Key themes

- Improvements to national and local communications to ensure that drug misusers and their families know where services are located, what they provide, and how to access them.
- Flexibility of services to accommodate often chaotic lifestyles of drug misusers especially where children are involved; needs of young people, homeless people, female drug misusers, minority groups.
- Single, shared assessments to minimise duplication and bureaucracy, and to address multiple problems (eg alcohol, mental health, social, family) faced by drug misusers.
- Waiting times – the various factors which cause them, and action required to reduce them. This issue is already under active consideration by the Executive and Drug Action Teams, but views are invited.
- The range and balance of services available, both community-based and residential to meet the varied needs of patients. Gaps in services. Personal aspirations of service users, and choices available to them.
- Integration of services ie drug treatment and rehab, and other service providers eg mental health, alcohol, social work, housing, benefits, training and employment.
- Capacity of services: need to support additional capacity, recruit new staff, improved training of staff. Scope to improve management and operation of existing services.
- Impact of criminal justice interventions (eg Drug Treatment and Testing Orders) on treatment services.

Rehabilitation: Key themes

- The range and balance of services available, both community-based and residential. Gaps in services. Engagement between rehabilitation services and drug treatment services to ensure continuity and integration of care.
- Engagement with providers of education, training and employment services to provide “routes out” for recovered/recovering drug misusers.
- Engagement with and support for the families of drug misusers, particularly where children are involved.

Links between prison services and drugs services

- Engagement between services to ensure ongoing treatment and aftercare.

Harm reduction services

- Capacity available to meet demand for, for example, needle exchanges, methadone prescribing etc.
- Low threshold interventions, such as outreach workers to encourage problematic drug misusers into treatment. Local/national communications activities to warn these most at risk (eg poly-drug and alcohol misusers) of the dangers.

Drug related deaths

- Improvements to the areas covered in this paper should help to reduce drug-related deaths. What additional action is required eg first aid training for drug misusers, families and peers to reduce risks from overdose, specific Scottish Executive action plan?

CONSULTATION ON DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION SERVICES REVIEW

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consultation is an essential and important aspect of Scottish Executive working methods. Given the wide-ranging areas of work of the Scottish Executive, there are many and varied types of consultation. However, in general, Scottish Executive consultation exercises aim to provide opportunities for all those who wish to express their opinions on a proposed area of work to do so in ways which will inform and enhance that work.

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body. Consultation exercises may involve seeking views in a number of different ways, such as public meetings, focus groups or questionnaire exercises. Typically, Scottish Executive consultations involve a written paper inviting answers to specific questions, or more general views about the material presented. Written papers are distributed to organisations and individuals with an interest in the area of consultation, and they are placed on the Scottish Executive website enabling a wider audience to access the paper and submit their responses. Copies of all the responses received to consultation exercises, except those where the individual or organisation has requested confidentiality, are placed in the Scottish Executive library at Saughton House, Edinburgh (K Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD, Tel: 0131-244 4552). The views and suggestions detailed in consultation responses are analysed and used as part of the decision-making process. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise, the responses received may:-

- Indicate the need for policy development or review
- Inform the development of a particular policy
- Help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- Be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented.

RESPONDING TO THIS CONSULTATION

We are inviting written responses to this consultation by the end of November 2003. Please send your response to:

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Regent Road
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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Tel: 0131-244 2290

ACCESS TO CONSULTATION RESPONSES

We will make all responses available to the public in the Scottish Executive library by the end of January 2004, unless confidentiality is requested. All responses not marked "confidential" will be checked for any potentially defamatory material before being logged in the library or placed on the Executive's website.

RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help to ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name:

Address:

Title of Consultation:

1. Are you responding as:

- An individual
- On behalf of a group or organisation

2. Do you agree to your response being made public (in the Executive's library and/or on the Executive's website)?

- Yes
- No

Please tick as appropriate

Where confidentiality is not requested, we will publish your full response, including your name (and address, where provided).

If you do not wish these personal details to be published, please tick the box below.

3. Are you content for the Scottish Executive's Substance Misuse Division to contact you again in future for consultation purposes?

- Yes
- No

CONSULTEES

Jericho House
The Richmond Fellowship Scotland
The Great Northern Partnership
The Reiver Project
Centre for Addiction Research and Education Scotland
STRADA
Alness Mothers Against Drugs
The SUN Project
Priory Hospital
Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility
Mothers and Carers of Drug Addicts
SCVO
Job Centre Plus
Base 75
Dundee Drugs and Aids Project
Castle Craig
Clued-Up Project
Crew 2000
Family Service Units, Scotland
Harbour Drug and Alcohol Services
The Web Project
Scottish Council for Single Homeless
Gallowgate Family Support Group
British Medical Association
The Shield Centre
The Ravenstone Project
Narcotics Anonymous
Genesis Project, Rankeillor Initiative
Go Project
Action of Churches Together in Scotland
Youth Solutions Project, Youth Support Team
Barnardo's Scotland
No. 1 Project
NHS Health Scotland
The Alexander Clinic
Scottish Civic Forum
Aberlour Outreach
The Corner
DrugScope
Dawson Drug and Alcohol Project
Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health
Green Door Clinic
Signpost
Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Youth Parliament
CAST
HELM Employment and Training Group
The Dry Dock
Youthstart
Turning Point Scotland

The Robertson Trust
Choice Project
Bethany Addiction Team
Gorbals Initiative
Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health
Indie Project
Armadale and Blackridge Substance Abuse Project
NACRO – The Crime Reduction Charity
APEX Scotland
Scottish Network for Families Affected by Drugs
Move On Project
SOLVE
Wisecrack
Salvation Army
The Bridge Project
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Drug and Alcohol Project (Levenmouth)
Bridges Project
HYPE
Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland
New Opportunities Fund
Maxie Richards
Royal College of Nursing
Re-Solv
Lomond Drug Problem Service
SCRA
Methadone Activities Programme
Lifelong Education and Training Solutions
Welfare to Work Team
The Salvation Army
Scottish Interfaith Council
SACRO
Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Youthlink
Royal College of General Practitioners
Royal College of Psychiatrists
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons
Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh