

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE/PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 11 JUNE 2001

REPORT ON: CO-ORDINATION OF DUNDEE DRUGS & ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE PLANNING/DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK/DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

REPORT NO: 292-2001

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report recommends the establishment of a part-time post to co-ordinate the work of the Dundee Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DDAAT) and to facilitate the implementation of the Drug Corporate Action Plan and the emerging Alcohol Action Plan for Dundee

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee approves the content of this report.
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Personnel and Management Services Committee approves the establishment of a fixed term part-time (19 hours per week) post of Dundee Drug and Alcohol Co-ordinator graded PO7-10, SCP 41-44 (£27,687 - £29,823)

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The post will be funded in full from resources allocated by the Scottish Executive for the support and development of local Drug Action Teams. For the year 2001/02, £17,666 has been allocated to the Dundee Drug & Alcohol Action Team. This funding was confirmed in April 2001 and is not therefore included in the 2001/02 Revenue Budget.
- 3.2 The post will be established on a fixed term basis initially for one year and may be extended thereafter on an annual basis subject to the provision of continued funding from the Scottish Executive.

4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Drug & Alcohol Action Team aims to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families access support and treatment on an equitable basis. This report is therefore consistent with the Council's Equal Opportunities policy.

5. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report supports the Dundee 21 theme which promotes Health Services which emphasise prevention of illness as well as care for the sick.

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1 **Drug Action Teams**

- 6.1.1 In May 1999, the Dundee Drug & Alcohol Action Team, chaired by the Director of Social Work, was established to undertake the strategic planning and co-ordination of services in response to drug and alcohol misuse in the city. This had previously been done on a Tayside wide basis.
- 6.1.2 The Scottish Executive's Strategy, Tackling Drugs in Scotland: Action in Partnership and its subsequent Drugs Action Plan clearly reflect the critical role of Drug Action Teams which are identified as the focal point for local action on drug and alcohol misuse. They are expected to lead effective joint working between Health Board, local authorities and many other key agencies planning and providing services in this area.
- 6.1.3 In implementing the national drugs strategy locally, Drug Action Teams are specifically tasked to:
- prepare Annual Corporate Action Plans as an integral part of their strategic planning arrangements. These should be the basis for allocating resources locally.
 - set local objectives drawn down from the national objectives to achieve precise outcomes.
 - assess local needs and priorities
 - align priorities, resources and operational focus in line with the national strategy
 - assess local progress and performance and ensure value for money in tackling drugs locally.
 - provide a costed plan for drugs within each DAT partner's service plan.
 - over time, assemble a Corporate Budget drawing on the resources available to all partners.
- 6.1.4 The Scottish Executive has acknowledged the need to allocate revenue funding for the support and development of Drug Action Teams. For the year 2001/02 £17,666 has been allocated to the Dundee Drug and Alcohol Action Team.

6.2 **The Need For A Co-ordinated Response In Dundee**

- 6.2.1 There is an increasingly complex pattern of drug and alcohol related service provision in Dundee delivered through the NHS Tayside, Dundee City Council, Tayside Police and partners in the voluntary sector. The financial and human resources allocated to this work are extensive and partnership working, as a result, is complicated.
- 6.2.2 At the same time the Scottish Executive has introduced a number of initiatives and funding opportunities to promote action to tackle various aspects of drug and alcohol misuse. A far from exhaustive selection of these would include:
- The New Futures Fund
 - The Rough Sleeper Initiative
 - The Health Improvement Fund
 - The Social Inclusion Partnership: Tackling Drug Misuse Initiative
 - The New Community School Initiative
 - The Scottish Drugs Challenge

- 6.2.3 Funding accessed through these initiatives has led to the creation of local projects, each of which has a unique contribution to make in tackling drug and alcohol misuse in Dundee. It is essential that these projects achieve the results for which they received funding and that the appropriate links are made with mainstream and voluntary services so that the efforts of all partners and projects are directly strategically to meet the objectives of the Dundee DAAT.
- 6.2.4 The Dundee DAAT has gone on to identify its main local priorities for the next Corporate Action Plans, with greater emphasis to be given to the following:
- a. The collection of accurate, local information on need, service demand, levels of provision and allocation of resources.
 - b. Extending work with young people and understanding the extent of drug misuse among young people.
- 6.2.5 Within Dundee DAAT partner organisations, there are in place staff with the responsibility for delivering services, and in some cases the remit to develop partnership working. There is , however, no individual with the responsibility of developing the unique Dundee agenda on drug and alcohol misuse. The Dundee DAAT provides an excellent platform for the identification of shared priorities, but the implementation of its Action Plans cannot be fully achieved without a dedicated officer to drive forward the necessary planning and joint working.

6.3 **A Dedicated Co-ordinator For Dundee Drug And Alcohol Action Team**

- 6.3.1 Consequently, the Dundee Drug and Alcohol Action Team has agreed to appoint a part-time co-ordinator (19 hours per week) with responsibility for implementing the variety of tasks outlined above in 6.1.3 and the local priorities of information collection and extending work focussing on young people. A job description for the post has been drafted as the basis for consultation with partners. The post would be situated within Dundee City Council and would report jointly to the Directors of Social Work and Corporate Planning and would be set at an appropriately senior level to work with the decision-making representatives in partner organisations and to lead partnership working towards the priorities set out in the Dundee Drug & Alcohol Corporate Action Plans. The post will be offered initially on a secondment basis open to staff from existing Dundee DAAT member organisations. This post is fixed initially for a one year period and thereafter may be extended on an annual basis depending on Scottish Executive funding.
- 6.3.2 While the post will be established in Social Work, the DDAAT Co-ordinator will work extensively on a corporate basis to ensure that Dundee City Council maximises its response to drug and alcohol misuse through the efforts of key departments including Education, Housing, Neighbourhood Resources and Development, and Environmental and Consumer Protection.
- 6.3.3 The cost implications of this post amount to approximately £14,012 in the year 2001/02 to be met from the resources allocated by the Scottish Executive for the support and development of local Drug Action Teams.

7. **CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Directors of Housing, Finance, Support Services, Education and Neighbourhood Resources have been consulted during the preparation of this report.
- 7.2 The appropriate Trades Unions have also been consulted on the contents of this report.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None

Director of Corporate Planning Date

Director of Social Work Date

Director of Personnel
and Management Services..... Date