

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13th November 2000

**REPORT ON: DUNDEE CORPORATE DRUG ACTION PLAN:
'TACKLING DRUG MISUSE'**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 715-2000

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report informs the Committee of the Dundee Corporate Drug Action Plan 2000/2003 'Tackling Drug Misuse' and the proposals for the dissemination of the plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:-

2.1.1 notes the content of the Action Plan.

2.1.2 approves the proposal for the dissemination of the Action Plan.

2.1.3 instructs the Director of Social Work to report back to Committee on the progress made on the Action Plan.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications for Dundee City Council.

The Scottish Executive has announced there will be extra funding £100 million for anti-drugs activity across Scotland. Dundee Drug and Alcohol Action Team is in the process of making arrangements to ensure that bids, which are in line with the priorities in the Dundee Corporate Drug Action Plan, are submitted against each of the designated categories of funding.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Dundee Corporate Drug Action Plan is consistent with the values and principles expressed in the Agenda 21 Programme.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Dundee Corporate Drug Action Plan aims to reflect the needs of all members of the community.

Consultation with professional groups and with members of the wider community will provide an opportunity to work collectively to determine how the views and needs of local communities can be addressed.

6. MAIN TEXT

6.1 The Scottish Strategy *Tackling Drugs in Scotland; Action in Partnership* (March 1999) placed responsibility and accountability for addressing drug issues with Drug Action Teams with the expectation that each of the Drug Action Teams produce an Action Plan.

The Scottish Strategy outlines the following strategic aims:

- To help young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society.
- To protect our communities from drug related anti-social and criminal behaviour.

- Through treatment, to enable people with drug problems to overcome them and live healthy and crime-free lives.
 - To stifle the availability of illegal drugs in our streets.
- 6.2 These strategic aims which are inter-related, provide a framework for the development of the Dundee Corporate Drug Action Plan. Key partners involved in drawing up the Action Plan include representatives from Dundee City Council, Tayside Health Board, Tayside Primary Care Trust, the Voluntary Sector and Tayside Police. It is recognised that effective partnership between a wide range of agencies is crucial in order to achieve a co-ordinated approach.
- 6.3 The decision was taken in 1998 to replace the Tayside wide Drug Action Team and Alcohol Action Team with three local authority based groups. The Dundee Drug and Alcohol Action Team was subsequently formed chaired by the Director of Social Work.
- 6.4 The Dundee Drug and Alcohol Action Team is the key co-ordinating body. This team will ensure that the actions outlined in the Dundee Corporate Drug Plan are implemented and that they relate to pertinent aspects in other relevant strategic plans (e.g. Community Care, Children's Services and Criminal Justice Plans, the Social Inclusion Partnership and the Mental Health Strategy).
- 6.5 Partnership working and joint commissioning through the Dundee Drug and Alcohol Action Team will give greater flexibility and co-ordination across agencies and reduce overlaps in services.
- 6.6. The Dundee Drug and Alcohol Action Team will review the Dundee Corporate Drug Action Plan annually and report to Committee accordingly.
- 6.7 The importance of informing, involving and consulting with local communities regarding the strategic aims and action points within the Dundee Corporate Drug Action Plan is recognised.
- 6.8 It is, therefore, proposed to launch the Dundee Corporate Drug Action Plan by: -
- a Issuing copies to all interested agencies
 - b Organising meetings in communities/neighbourhoods which have expressed a concern and interest in tackling the drugs problem
 - c Organising events for statutory and voluntary front-line workers to raise awareness about the resources available, the need for co-ordination and plans to tackle drug problems in the city

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Directors of Finance, Neighbourhood Resources Development Department, Support Services and Corporate Planning have been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 7.2 An extensive consultation process has also been carried out through the Dundee Drug and Alcohol Action Team in order to obtain the views of the major stakeholders.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Tackling Drugs in Scotland : Action in Partnership.
The Scottish Office HMSO 1999

9. SIGNATURE

Director

Date