



ALCOHOL AND DRUGS DELIVERY REFORM

BOARD MEETING – 30 APRIL 2009

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board for consideration proposals for reviewing and reforming alcohol and drugs planning structures.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In January 2008, the Scottish Government established a Delivery Reform Group to improve alcohol and drugs delivery arrangements in order to ensure better outcomes for service users.
- 2.2 The establishment of this Delivery Reform Group followed on from a stock take review of Alcohol and Drug Action Teams (ADATs) conducted under the previous Scottish Administration in 2007.
- 2.3 The stock take review whilst concluding that a partnership model was necessary for tackling substance misuse at a local level, also found that there were significant weaknesses in the accountability, role and purpose of ADATs.
- 2.4 The development of new national strategies on reducing alcohol misuse and problem drug use also signified a need to review current delivery arrangements – in particular, to ensure that local arrangements were sufficiently responsive to a change in direction, and were able to adapt to a “whole population” approach for alcohol and to a recovery approach for drugs.
- 2.5 Against the backdrop of these developments, the task of the Delivery Reform Group was to draw up proposals for a new national delivery framework to promote consistently effective arrangements across the country.

3. DELIVERY REFORM

- 3.1 Recently, the nature of relationships between the Scottish Government and local partners has evolved significantly. Whilst a number of other partnerships have realigned themselves to better reflect these new relationships, ADATs have remained unchanged since their inception in 1995. Therefore, in order to ensure effective delivery of alcohol and drugs services, drug and alcohol partnerships need to better reflect accountability arrangements such as those evidenced via the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).
- 3.2 Given the above, the Delivery Reform Group proposes that a specialist, dedicated partnership on alcohol and drugs is developed at a local level. As a result of the centrality of Community Planning to the achievement of outcomes at a local level, the

Delivery Reform Group recommends that such a partnership should be firmly embedded within Community Planning Partnership arrangements and should be named as Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs).

- 3.3 This ADP is expected to produce for the local area an alcohol and drug strategy that should identify local need and circumstances as well as setting out a broad outline of services to be provided.
- 3.4 In assisting ADPs with this task of developing local strategies, as well as equipping them to operate effectively within an outcomes based environment, the Delivery Reform Group developed an outcomes toolkit which provides examples of intermediate and service delivery outcomes that ADPs may wish to consider.
- 3.5 The Delivery Reform Group also proposes the establishment of a national support function utilising the skills and expertise of practitioners in the field. Whilst many within the field remain unsure as to the exact function of this national support, its overall aim would be to help ADPs to achieve the best possible outcomes.
- 3.6 The recommendations from the Delivery Reform Group were presented to Scottish Ministers for approval and are expected to be endorsed at a national event to be held in Edinburgh on 20 April 2009. In underlining the importance of the partnership approach in tackling drug and alcohol problems, Scottish Ministers have held discussions on the proposals with key individuals from NHS Scotland and the Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

4. PROPOSED ALCOHOL AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP IN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 4.1 Following an event held in January 2009 by ADAT and attended by officers from health, East Ayrshire Council, Community Planning Partners and the voluntary sector it was recommended that the East Ayrshire ADPs reporting structures are aligned to local Community Planning structures through the new Community Health Partnership (CHP).
- 4.2 In order to ensure transparency and accountability, it is recommended that the ADP would be established as a cross cutting group reporting to the Officer Locality Group (Adults and Older People) and the Officer Locality Group (Children and Young People). The ADP would therefore be responsible for reporting to the Officer Locality Groups, and ultimately the CHP, on the delivery of the Improving Health and Wellbeing Action Plan and associated indicators within the SOA.
- 4.3 Some discussion was also held regarding membership of the ADP with a recommendation that voluntary sector partners are included with other members being drawn from the Officer Locality Groups and other associated planning groups such as Community Safety.
- 4.4 In progressing the development of the ADP, discussions have taken place with the two Officer Locality Groups and the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group in order to establish membership and its operational terms of reference.

4.5 The proposal to establish an East Ayrshire ADP has been supported by related strategic planning groups with a recommendation that the chair of the ADP should be an officer of Head of Service level or equivalent, from one of the partners.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Board:

- i) approves the establishment of an East Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership;
- ii) approves the recommendation that reporting structures for the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership are aligned with local Community Planning structures through the Community Health Partnership;
- iii) remits relevant officers to ensure effective implementation; and
- iv) otherwise, notes the content of the report.

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20 April 2009