

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

COMMITTEE

DELIVERY REFORM

18/5/09 2009

Report by the Team Manager Youth and Addiction Services, East Ayrshire Council

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the CHP Forum for the 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 follows on from a stocktake review of Alcohol and Drug Action Teams (ADATs) conducted under the previous Scottish administration in 2007.
- 2.3 The stocktake 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, ADAT's 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.

- 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. Because 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.

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 NHS Ayrshire and Arran, East Ayrshire Council, Community Planning Partners and the voluntary sector it was recommended that the East Ayrshire ADP sit within the overall Community Planning framework with its reporting structure aligned to those of 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 Community Health Partnership via the Officer Locality Groups 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, a paper has been submitted to the two Officer Locality Groups, the CHP Forum and the Community Planning Joint Officers' Group in order to establish recommendations for membership and its operational terms of reference. A final paper was approved by the Community Planning Partnership Board at its meeting of 30 April 2009.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- i) approves the establishment of an East Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership;
- ii) approves the recommendation relating to reporting structures at 4.2 of this report
- iii) remit relevant officers to ensure effective implementation; and
- iv) otherwise, note the content of this report

1/5/09