



MOMENTUM – ENERGISER PLUS

Board Meeting – 12 August 2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Board Members on the progress of Momentum's Energiser Plus project.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Momentum Energiser Plus project is aimed at addressing the North Initiative's objective of "pursuing the promotion of positive health and social well-being, particularly for those dependent on alcohol and drugs".
- 2.2 The project is a community integration outreach programme and was approved and received a funding allocation of £28,150 at the North Board meeting of 5 February 2004. The project has the overall aim of addressing the gap in service provision in relation to the aftercare/rehabilitation of substance users in the north of East Ayrshire.
- 2.3 North Initiative funding has provided financial support to recruit a Link Worker dedicated to the north of the authority. This is in addition to existing provision funded through the New Opportunities Fund and the European Social Fund.
- 2.4 Members will recall that, at the Board meeting of 3 June 2004, it was reported that the project had employed two Link Workers and networking was taking place with other service providers. The search for suitable premises in Kilmarnock was ongoing.

3. ENERGISER PLUS – PROGRESS REPORT

3.1 Project Delivery

The project is currently recruiting and assessing service users, including 11 beneficiaries from the north of the authority to date. Beneficiaries are receiving one-to-one support and will commence group work in the next three to four weeks. Initial referral flow is being generated by the criminal justice system.

3.2 Premises

The project has been delayed due to the unexpected difficulty in securing premises in Kilmarnock. Lease negotiations are currently being undertaken for premises at 10 Nelson Street, Kilmarnock. It is Momentum's intention to share this office space with another Momentum initiative, the new Supporting People Service for Ayrshire project.

3.3 Staffing

Both Link Workers currently operate within the north of East Ayrshire. The recruitment of the part-time administrator has been delayed due to the difficulties in securing premises. It is proposed that the Energiser Plus project will share a full-time administrator with the Supporting People Service on a 50/50 basis.

3.4 Marketing

Marketing material for the Energiser Plus project has been prepared and will be printed when address and contact details have been finalised.

3.5 Beneficiary Council and Monitoring Group

The Beneficiary Council will be established when the initial service users have had time to settle into the programme. Momentum is currently considering the membership of the Monitoring Group, which will comprise eight representatives including:

- Ayrshire and Arran Alcohol and Drug Action Team;
- Ayrshire and Arran Health Board;
- Ayrshire Criminal Justice Team;
- Beneficiary Council;
- East Ayrshire Council; and
- East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 It is recommended that members of the Board:

- i) note the progress of the Energiser Plus project to date;
- ii) agree to receive a further progress report at the next Board meeting prior to the release of the balance of funds in September 2004; and
- iii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
4 August 2004