



**ADDICTION UPDATE – AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND
MOMENTUM**

Board Meeting – 3 June 2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Board Members on the progress of the Ayrshire Council on Alcohol (ACA) 'Young Persons Alcohol Information Initiative' and Momentum's 'Energiser Plus' project.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Both the ACA and Momentum projects are 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".

3. YOUNG PERSONS' ALCOHOL INFORMATION INITIATIVE

- 3.1 A financial allocation for the 'Young Persons Alcohol Information Initiative' was approved by the North Board at its meeting of 6 February 2003. The project has the overall aim of addressing issues of problematic alcohol use among young people. Identified young people will be referred to the ACA by Strathclyde Police, where they will attend a five-week alcohol education programme.
- 3.2 Due to staff difficulties within ACA and Strathclyde Police, the project has been unduly delayed, with only half of the approved funding allocation released to date. It is anticipated that the project will commence fully in June 2004.

4. ENERGISER PLUS

- 4.1 The 'Energiser Plus' project 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. A community integration outreach programme will be established and North Initiative funding will provide financial support to recruit a Link Worker dedicated to the north of the authority. This will be in addition to existing provision funded through the New Opportunities Fund and the European Social Fund.
- 4.2 The project has now employed two Link Workers and networking is currently taking place with other service providers. However, the search for suitable premises in Kilmarnock remains problematic and a temporary solution to the accommodation problem is being considered, including co-location with Rathbone Training, Old Irvine Road, Kilmarnock.
- 4.3 A more detailed performance report on progress will be presented to the Board in August 2004.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that members of the Board:

- i) note the progress of the two addiction related projects to date;
- ii) agree to receive comprehensive performance reports in relation to each of the addiction projects at the Board Meeting of 12 August 2004; and
- iii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Community Planning and Partnership Manager
26 May 2004