



ADDICTION REPORT
Board Meeting - 22 May 2003

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Board members on the progress of the bid to the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) Better Off Programme in relation to aftercare/rehabilitation for substance users.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting of 14 March 2002, the North Initiative Board agreed to make an application to the NOF Better Off Programme to take forward an initiative which would address the gap in service provision in relation to aftercare/rehabilitation for substance users.
- 2.2 To take forward this initiative, a short-term working group was established comprising representatives of the North Board and core partners.
- 2.3 An application was completed and submitted to Ayrshire and Arran Drug and Alcohol Action Team (ADAT) on Tuesday 1 October 2002. ADAT had been tasked with endorsing and co-ordinating all Ayrshire bids to the Better Off Programme.
- 2.4 The application was forwarded by ADAT to NOF for the closing date of 14 October 2002. A decision on awards from this fund was expected in February 2003.

3 DECISION IN RESPECT OF THE FUNDING BID

- 3.1 On 9 April 2003, NOF wrote advising that the Board's application had been unsuccessful for the following reasons:
- strategic fit (insufficient fit with ADA T's corporate plan);
 - project planning (outcomes do not correspond sufficiently to the programme priorities);
 - management (the application did not successfully demonstrate how East Ayrshire Council would apply its experience to the effective management of the project); and
 - budget (match funding not evidenced).

- 3.2 As the bid was developed in consultation with a range of experienced partners, it is felt that further clarification requires to be sought from NOF regarding why the application was unsuccessful.
- 3.3 Melvin Griffin, External Funding and Sustainability Officer, will therefore arrange a meeting with the Programme Manager to seek further clarification on the decision and to inform the development of future funding applications.
- 3.4 No formal announcement has been made as yet in respect of the successful applications. However, initial approaches to NOF have revealed that bids worth three times the available funding were received and some larger organisations with demonstrable experience were involved.

4 THE WAY FORWARD

- 4.1 It is clear that the gap in existing services in respect of aftercare for substance users in their rehabilitation stage still exists and addressing this issue remains a continuing priority for the Board.
- 4.2 It is proposed therefore that the working group, comprising representatives of the North Board and core partners, be reconvened to seek alternative funding for the aftercare initiative.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- i) note that the application to the NOF Better Off Programme has been unsuccessful;
 - ii) remit the Manager Social Inclusion to submit a further report on the outcome and any learning points arising from the follow up meeting with NOF referred to at paragraph 3.3;
 - iii) agree to reconvene the working group to seek alternative funding for the aftercare initiative; and
 - iv) otherwise note the content of the report.

Gwen Barker
Manager Social Inclusion
15 May 2003