

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

SJR(2)-01-07(p.3)

Date: Thursday 18 January 2007

Time: 18 January 2007

Venue: Cardiff Bay

**Title: Substance Misuse Policy Review Part One – Progress Report on the
Implementation of Recommendations.**

Purpose

1. To inform Members of progress to implement the recommendations of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee's policy review of Substance Misuse.

Introduction

2. Please see at Annex 1, a grid detailing the progress we have made towards implementing those recommendations made following the Committee's Policy Review of Substance Misuse Treatment which were accepted by the Welsh Assembly Government. For ease of reference, progress is reported against each the original Committee recommendations and the Cabinet response which was tabled on 7 June 2006.

3. The Committee will know from the discussion on the Cabinet response in July that work on many of the issues raised in the review was already part of our work programme. In addition, my 4th Annual Report on the delivery of the Substance Misuse Strategy which was discussed at our meeting on 21 September provided members with a comprehensive update on a number of the issues raised in the Committee's policy review. In preparing this latest progress report on implementing the recommendations from the Policy Review, I have referenced the relevant paragraphs of the Annual Report for Members convenience.

4. A recent development which will assist in the implementation of the recommendations is the further increase in the Substance Misuse Action Fund that formed part of the Assembly Government's final budget proposals which were agreed last month. The Substance Misuse Action Fund will increase to ?22 million in 2007-08, representing an increase of 650% on the budget of ? 3.3million in 2002-03. This will mean that the total budget allocated to CSPs for delivery of their local action plans will increase by over 30% from the 2006-07 provision. I have signalled to CSPs that priorities for the use of these additional resources will be the development of children and young people's services (including prevention measures), alcohol services and tackling waiting lists for

treatment.

Compliance

5. Sections 2, 3 and 23 of the NHS Act 1977, exercised in conjunction with Sections 40 and 85 of the GOWA 1998 provide the statutory basis for the Assembly's work in combating substance misuse. These powers have been transferred to the Assembly and delegated to me, Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, as the relevant Minister. There are no issues of regularity or propriety connected to this paper.

Financial Implications

6. All the initiatives and projects described in this paper are being funded from the existing provision from the Substance Misuse Action Fund BELs in the social Justice and Regeneration MEG. There are no additional financial implications linked to this paper.

Action

7. This paper is to note only, there is no further action for the Committee.

Contact Point – Substance Misuse Strategy Implementation Branch, Community Safety Division