

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

SJR(2) –12-06(p2)

Date: Thursday 21 September 2006

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Substance Misuse – 4th Annual Progress Report

Purpose

1. The Committee is asked to note the 4th annual report at Annex 1, which provides information on progress in implementing the Welsh Assembly Government's Substance Misuse Strategy - "Tackling Substance Misuse - A Partnership Approach" over the past 12 months.

Introduction

2. We all recognise that tackling substance misuse in Wales is a huge agenda and one which still presents us with significant challenges - I am sure that this fact was brought into sharp relief for Committee Members during their recent review. However, whilst recognising that there is a big task ahead of us, I think it is worth reflecting on the progress that we have made, with this Committee's support, over recent years. Some Committee Members will remember the situation that faced us when I took over this agenda in 2002. This was clearly set out in a Review of Substance Misuse Treatment Services which had been commissioned by the Health and Social Services Committee. The key findings of that Review were highlighted in my first report to Committee on Substance Misuse in September 2003 as were my plans to address each of them. These were:

The strategy delivery structures did not allow or encourage joint working or consistency across Wales;

There was a lack of funding, too many funding streams and no guarantees of funding beyond one year at a time;

There was a complete lack of central guidance on commissioning issues, treatment standards, or models of good practice;

Monitoring and evaluation data/information was virtually non-existent;

There were severe difficulties in the recruitment and retention of staff;

The lack of joint working resulted in little support for ex-offenders, resulting in a cycle of re-

offending; and;

Access to services in rural areas was poor.

3. As Committee Members read this latest annual report, it is worth considering the position that we faced only 3 years ago and contrasting it with the current situation on each of these points. With the help and support of our partners and stakeholders, I firmly believe that we have made significant progress on each of these key priorities.

Compliance

4. 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

5. All the initiatives and projects described in this paper are being funded from the existing provision from the Substance Misuse Action Fund BEL in the Social Justice MEG - there are no additional financial implications linked to this paper.

Action

6. There is no further action for the Committee in respect of this paper.

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

SUBSTANCE MISUSE – 4TH ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

INDEX

SECTION	CONTENTS	PAGE

SECTION 1	<p>DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY AT A LOCAL & NATIONAL LEVEL</p> <p>CSPs</p> <p>Development of Local Services</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>Future Funding</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p>
SECTION 2	<p>DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRAL GUIDANCE & PERFORMANCE MONITORING</p> <p>Performance Management Framework</p> <p>Welsh National Database for Substance Misuse</p> <p>Performance Monitoring – KPIs</p> <p>Waiting Times Audit</p> <p>Research</p> <p>Substance Misuse Treatment Framework</p> <p>WIISMAT</p> <p>Children & Young People’s Module</p> <p>Homelessness</p> <p>Day & Community Support Services</p> <p>Advice & Information Specialist Services</p> <p>Alcohol Services</p> <p>Support for Implementation of the Treatment Framework</p> <p>Needle Exchange</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p>

	Co-occurring substance misuse & mental health problems	12
	Commissioning	
	Drug Related Deaths	
		13

SECTION 3	NATIONAL INITIATIVES & STRATEGY DEVELOPMENTS	13
	Hidden harm	
	DIP	15
	Drug testing on charge	16
	All-Wales drug & alcohol helpline	17
	Review of the substance misuse strategy	

