

Date: 23 January 2002

Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Substance Misuse - Confiscation of Assets

Purpose

1. This paper provides information on confiscated assets as agreed during the 21 November Committee meeting.

Summary

2. The Confiscated Assets Fund was established in 1999-2000 to enable assets seized from drug traffickers in the UK to be channelled back into anti-drug activity in support of the UK Drugs Strategy. It was managed by the UK Anti-Drugs Co-ordinator's Unit (UKADCU) in the Cabinet Office.

3. This Fund was supported from assets seized in England only, although the funding has been made available to Wales. A total of £15m was allocated to the Fund over 3 years as follows:

£3m in 1999-2000
£5m in 2000-2001
£7m in 2001-2002.

Keith Hellawell, UK Anti-Drugs Co-ordinator decided that the Fund should support hard to reach groups such as young people, ethnic minorities and women.

Background

4. The Fund was used to invite bids for projects aimed at the target groups and £3 million was used to set up a Central Drugs Treatment Fund to enable rapid development of intensive treatment interventions.

5. Bids were invited from the 5 Welsh Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAATs), along with Drug Action Teams in England. A number of bids were submitted by the Welsh DAATs, of which 3 schemes

in Wales were successful. These are set out below:

Dyfed Powys DAAT

£54,000 was awarded to fund counselling in 12 pharmacies spread evenly throughout the area to enable the development of spaces where increased privacy can lead to a continuation of existing services (Methadone Supervision, Needle Exchange) and extend to general health promotion. The focus was on young people who represent the majority of users/misusers and the services were targeted on the basis of vulnerability/exclusion.

Bro Taf DAAT

£50,000 was awarded to develop, produce and disseminate prevention material aimed at young people, ethnic minorities and women.

A leaflet in line with "Drugs-Your Questions Answered" was produced for ethnic minority groups in 5 key languages - Punjabi, Gujarati, Bengali, Somali and Cantonese.

Morgannwg DAAT

A grant of £81,086 was awarded over 3 years (2000-2001 to 2002-2003). This funds a part-time Creative Therapy Worker linking-in with a Woman's Worker to provide an imaginative, interactive service targeted at groups whom it has been difficult to engage with, such as young people, young people excluded or absent from school, vulnerable women and women at risk.

Central Drugs Treatment Fund

6. In June 2000, the UKADCU made £3m available from the Confiscated Assets Fund to establish a Central Drugs Treatment Fund to enable rapid development of a small number of intensive treatment interventions. Funding was for 1 year only. Bids were sought from DAATs in Wales.

7. Gwent DAAT are receiving £77,987 in 2001-02 from the Central Drugs Treatment Fund for a Young Person's Prescribing and Family Access Programme which will employ two full-time nurses specifically to work with young people and their families and in partnership with other agencies. The project targets young people who use heroin and who would be likely to become homeless without the necessary support and specialist prescribing interventions.

8. One of the criteria for selection was that funding beyond 12 months would be picked up by the local DAAT.

9. The Confiscated Assets Fund is being wound up and replaced by the new Recovered Assets Fund.

The criteria has been extended from drug related projects to include funding for law-enforcement initiatives and funding crime reduction partnerships.

10. There are two bidding rounds. The deadline for early bids was 16 January 2002 and the second deadline is the end of March 2002. DAATs in Wales have been notified of these new arrangements and invited to submit bids which will be considered on their merit by an Assets Recovery Committee. An official from the National Assembly is represented on the Committee which will make recommendations to Home Office Ministers.

Action

11. Members are asked to note for information.

Compliance

12. This submission is a paper for Members to note and does not raise any compliance or financial implications.

Jane Hutt

Minister for Health and Social Services

Contact Point: Peter Jones on Ext 5512 or Stephen Craddock on Ext 5592