



Meeting **Community Services Select Committee**

date **8 November 2004**

agenda item number

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (REGENERATION)

Drug Scrutiny Seminars 2004/2005

NCC Prevention of Substance Misuse Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is:

- a) To provide information to Members about the Drug Scrutiny Seminars being chaired by Cllr Bosnjak and the findings from the first seminar in September 2004, and
- b) To report on the NCC Prevention of Substance Misuse Strategy as it approaches the end of its 3 year delivery programme

2. Information

2.1 Drug Scrutiny Seminars

2.1.1. A series of 4 Drug Scrutiny Seminars is being held in Nottinghamshire between September 2004 and March 2005 to assess the impact that drug related services are having in reducing the level of drug use and drug related crime in Nottinghamshire. Subjects and dates for the remaining 3 seminars are attached at Appendix 1.

2.1.2 The first of these seminars looked at the work that the police are undertaking in relation to prolific offenders (the Sherwood Project) and that the Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team are delivering through the Criminal Justice Intervention Programme (CJIP).

2.1.3 The very clear message from these two projects is that people arrested for drug related crime face a stark choice: go into, and stay in, treatment, or go to jail. Key issues raised by attendees were:

How quickly can people be put back in jail if they come off treatment or re-offend? The answer is very quickly – (a matter of hours in some cases).

Can housing providers rely on the support promised by CJIP to drug users in treatment that they housed? The answer again is yes, with CJIP recognising that failure to support people who are giving up a

drug habit will result in failure and leaves the housing provider with a problematic tenant.

Is CJIP and the Sherwood Project making a difference? The answer is a clear yes. Total acquisitive crime has reduced in Nottinghamshire by 22.67% since April 2004

- 2.1.4 These two projects are now targeting 204 prolific offenders in the County who between them are responsible for a large proportion of drug related crime. Results are encouraging with very low levels of repeat offending and the projects are on target to deliver their target of reducing drug related crime by 50% by April 2006.
- 2.1.5 The next scrutiny seminar in this series will be on November 19th and is looking at Youth Justice and the Courts. Presentations are to be made by the Youth Offending Service, Probation and the Prison CARAT Service along with the thoughts of a serving Magistrate on whether we are making progress on reducing drug related crime through the youth justice system.

2.2 NCC Prevention of Substance Misuse Strategy

- 2.2.1 This County Council strategy set out a series of actions to be delivered over the period 2002 – 2005.
- 2.2.2 The strategy was developed in conjunction with the Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), and sets out the actions which the County Council would deliver as part of the DAAT's requirement to deliver the National Drugs Strategy at a local level.
- 2.2.3 The strategy identified 61 actions ranging from the creation of a new post to take responsibility for the strategic lead on young persons and drugs work to the designing out of drug crime by installing better street lighting. A recent audit of progress indicated that a handful of actions remained to be completed with an expectation that these would be undertaken by April 2005.
- 2.2.4 A new strategy is being written to cover the period 2005 to 2008. This document will have its roots in the National Drugs Strategy. The strategy will again set out our departmental actions on things like drug and alcohol education, training for staff and elected Members, work to reduce the use of drugs by women experiencing domestic violence and to ensure diversity into the core of our substance misuse work.
- 2.2.5 The DAAT will be producing a three year Action Plan for the first time in April 2005. This will provide an opportunity to have the County Council's Strategy lined up with that of the DAAT and the National Drugs Strategy.
- 2.2.6 The profile of work on reducing the impact of alcohol within the County will be raised during the next 12 months. The National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy which was produced by the Home Office in April 2004 has signalled a growing concern about the adverse impact on health and anti social behaviour of alcohol misuse.

- 2.2.7 Work on developing a Nottinghamshire County Council policy on dealing with Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) is underway. This is linked to the development of a county wide strategy for dealing with this problem. Partner agencies are fully committed to this work based upon an understanding of the need for consistency of approach and better information sharing. Encouraging sensible drinking will be a key element of this work.

3. Statutory and Policy Implications

- 3.1 This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and users. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of this report. Members' attention is, however, drawn to specifics as follows:

3.2 Crime & Disorder Implications

The NCC Prevention of Substance Misuse Strategy helps deliver a key part of the County Council's Community Safety Strategy by reducing the number of people involved in the use and misuse of substances which is linked with theft, burglary and robbery and anti-social behaviour. It also puts in place key services that will ensure young people have greater awareness of substance misuse issues, access to support, information, counselling and treatment.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That this report be noted.

Nigel Hamshire
Assistant Director (Regeneration)

Electoral Division(s) Affected

All

Background Papers Available for Inspection

NCC Prevention of Substance Misuse Strategy 2002 - 2005
Nottinghamshire DAAT Action Plan 2004/2005
National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Appendix 1

Forthcoming Drugs Scrutiny Seminars

**Youth Justice and the Courts
19 November 2004**

**Health's Role in treating drug users, particularly those with
mental health problems
21 January 2005**

**The Voluntary Sector's role in substance use in communities
14 March 2005**

**All are morning events with lunch at Nottinghamshire
International Clothing Centre, Hucknall**

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