

DRUG STRATEGY – REDUCING DEMAND MANAGING DRUG MISUSING OFFENDERS – UPDATE Bulletin 1 – 24 July 2012

Welcome to this first bulletin in the series we are issuing to keep you informed of work related to the management of drug misusing offenders, in line with the “*Reducing Demand*” chapter of the Drug Strategy. This edition contains background to the Strategy and information for local areas including: Payment by Results; the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners; and changes to funding arrangements from 2013/14.

Background

The Drug Strategy 2010 marked a fundamental shift in the Government’s approach to drugs and placed recovery from drugs at the centre of the Government’s commitment to tackling drug use and its associated problems. It also emphasised the *local* response that is required to ensure that recovery, in all of its meaning, can be achieved by partners at that level. As part of the emphasis on “*Reducing Demand*” and supporting individuals to recover, we have already ensured that local partners have greater freedom and flexibility to determine and deliver approaches that reflect local need. For example, some areas have reviewed who they drug test as part of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP). The benefits of ensuring that drug dependent adults who are committing crime can access treatment and recovery support at the earliest opportunity are clear – in 2010/11 nearly 63,000 Class A drug users were identified and managed through local DIP approaches, which is estimated to have prevented up to 680,000 crimes.

The Drug Strategy was reviewed in May 2012. The Government has committed to:–
“supporting local partners in the continued provision of services for identifying and tackling drug misusing offenders during the transition period before Police and Crime Commissioners take office; and [supporting local areas who are] making the case for continued investment from pooled community safety funding.”

Payment by Results

Payment by Results (PbR) is all about paying for what works and getting better outcomes for the public money that is spent. Reducing crime and offending is just one area where the Government is introducing new PbR models. Eight local areas are taking forward innovative PbR models for **drug and alcohol recovery**, with support from central Government (including reports on their outcome metrics from centrally matched data systems). A number of other local partnerships are now also adopting or looking to adopt PbR approaches for drug and alcohol recovery.

We have recently held two successful events with stakeholders on PbR for drug and alcohol recovery: over 130 providers and over 90 local commissioners and partners

came to discuss applying PbR in their areas. In both events it was clear that there is a strong desire for data sharing and analytical support to local areas, particularly in relation to offending as this data is not routinely available to drug and alcohol commissioners. Further information on this will follow in future bulletins.

For more information on PbR, please go to the Home Office website:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/reducing-reoffending/pbr>

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs)

On 15 November 2012, PCCs will be elected in every police force area in England and Wales (outside London). PCCs will have responsibility for:

- Appointing the Chief Constable and holding them to account for the running of their force;
- Setting out a five year Police and Crime Plan based on local priorities (developed in consultation with the Chief Constable, local community and others);
- Setting the annual local precept and annual force budget; and
- Making grants to organisations aside from the police.

PCCs will provide strong local leadership – which will be key to cutting crime and improving outcomes for local people. PCCs will be free to pool funding with local partners and will have the flexibility to decide how best to use their resources to deliver the priorities set out in their local Police and Crime Plan.

More information about PCCs, their role and responsibilities is available on the Home Office website here: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners>

Funding arrangements for 2013/14

In 2013/14, in addition to the Police Main Grant and other specific police grants (such as Counter Terrorism Policing Grant), PCCs will receive funding from a new Home Office Community Safety Fund (CSF). The CSF will be un-ringfenced. Given the establishment of the CSF, the Home Office will not provide specific, dedicated funding from the end of March 2013 for the Home Office element of the Drug Interventions Programme (i.e. DIP Main Grant; DIP Drug Testing Grant).

In London, 2012/13 funding previously provided to local areas for the delivery of the Drug Interventions Programme has been allocated to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

Integrated Offender Management and the Conference 2012

DIP is a key strand within many local Integrated Offender Management (IOM) arrangements and, in fact, the IOM approach developed first in areas with strong DIP schemes where they wanted to use the model of integrated working to tackle a wider cohort of offenders. IOM continues to be a strongly supported local approach where partners set out their local priorities. Government is committed to supporting these approaches and helping to share evidence of what works.

As part of this, the Home Office hosted a two-day national IOM conference earlier this month. The Conference was well attended with a good mix of both operational and strategic partners and a line up of speakers including the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Chief Probation Officers' Association, Youth Justice Board, Clinks, the Prison Reform Trust, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and the Local Government Association as well as contributions from the Home Office (including the UK Border Agency and Serious Organised Crime Agency), and wider government (Ministry of Justice and the National Offender Management Service).

The Minister for Policing and Criminal Justice delivered a keynote address, in which he set the forward challenge for IOM as supporting a "smarter on crime" approach by focusing more on prevention to stop the escalation of offending behaviour and reduce re-offending. The Minister talked about key developments that would contribute to helping areas meet this challenge, which were:

- Accountability for outcomes – IOM was a good model because it set a common mission locally with agencies sharing responsibility. PCCs can help to drive this further;
- Criminal justice system (CJS) reform. Since the conference the CJS reform White Paper "[Swift and Sure Justice: the Government's Plans for Reform of Criminal Justice](#)" has been published (on 13 July 2012);
- Health and mental health developments; and
- Localism – devolving responsibility from the centre to the local.

A key focus for the conference was positioning IOM within the context of the Government's reform agenda, with a focus on new directions to extend the IOM model more broadly. We expect the conference report to be published shortly on the Home Office website: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/reducing-reoffending>.

What are partners doing now to prepare for the arrival of PCCs?

A series of events was held between January and March 2012, aimed at informing local areas about PCCs and their future role and importance within the local partnership landscape. We know these events stimulated much discussion from a range of partners across many police force areas, but plans are varied. In some organisations, preparations have been put on hold until such a point as all candidates have been declared or until the PCC has been elected.

Through this communications bulletin, we will offer examples of good practice, where local partnerships are already reaping the benefits of joined-up working and preparations. As a start, here are a few suggestions of things that partners are doing now:

- Initiating discussions with other partners across the police force area;
- Considering current partnership priorities and the potential involvement and interests of a PCC in the force area;

- Marshalling the evidence base and value for money of current programmes to inform PCC investment decisions;
- Understanding how the arrival of a PCC may affect current programme and funding arrangements;
- Discussing support for commissioning across partnerships and agencies, within the police force area;
- Engaging with existing Police Authority Chief Executive and the PCC transition programme underway in the force area.

Changes to Single Point of Contact lists

The Criminal Justice Integrated Team (CJIT) Single Point of Contact (SPOC) list, Police Leads SPOC, and 24/7 Client Advice line SPOC provide a list of local partners who can support approaches to tackle drug misusing offenders, for example, by providing out-of-hours contact names.

For 2012/13, the SPOC list will continue to be maintained by the Home Office. Any changes to any of these lists should be e-mailed to Frances.Bardrick@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

The SPOC for Prisons has changed, in the recent DOH/MOJ letter (Gateway Number 17594) it stated:

“Substance misuse services are expected to provide a single point of contact [SPOC] for the communication, with informed consent, of patient information required to secure continuation of treatment and support. The SPOC provision must include a functional email box to which all members of the treatment team have daily access. Each prison has an established Functional Mailbox that should be used for this purpose.”

This should now provide more secure and timely responses to and from substances misuse teams not only in the community but also between prisons. Governors are encouraged to ensure that all the appropriate staff has access to the emails box and that staff actively use this to exchange relevant information. This will serve to strengthen continuity of care arrangements.

The full prisons SPOC list, along with a regional version, are available at: <http://www.nta.nhs.uk/criminal-justice.aspx>

Staff wishing to contact a prison by telephone or find out more about a particular prison can use the following website to obtain further information - <http://www.justice.gov.uk/contacts/prison-finder>

Any changes to the Prisons SPOC should now be directed to: spoc@nta-nhs.org.uk

Contact us

We will send out regular bulletins throughout the remainder of the transition year to keep you informed of what you need to know and share case studies of good practice partnership working.

We would very much welcome your feedback, comments and questions throughout this project, particularly on what resources or support you would find useful from us during this transition year.

You can contact us by emailing DIPFutures@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

Where we feel that you make a comment or ask a question that is of general interest, we will publish the question anonymously in the latest bulletin together with our reply.