

TALLAGHT DRUGS TASK FORCE

**REVIEW OF 1997 SERVICE
DEVELOPMENT PLAN
AND FORMULATION OF NEW
SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

FINAL REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Tallaght Drugs Task Force (TDTF) is one of 13 Local Drugs Task Forces which were set up in areas experiencing high levels of drug misuse/abuse. The establishment of the Local Drugs Task Forces was one of the key recommendations contained in the Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Measures to Reduce the Demand for Drugs. This Task Force was chaired by Pat Rabbite T.D., Minister of State to the Government. The Local Drugs Task Forces were set up in 1997 to facilitate a more effective response to the drugs problem in the areas experiencing the highest levels of drug misuse. This was to be achieved through improved co-ordination in service provision and through utilising the knowledge and experience of local communities in designing and delivering those services.

The Task Forces comprise a partnership between the statutory, voluntary and community sectors. They were mandated to prepare and oversee the implementation of action plans which co-ordinate all relevant drug programmes in their areas and address gaps in service provision. The Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion allocated £10 million to support the implementation of the initial Task Force plans, which were prepared in 1997. Over 200 separate measures, mainly community-based initiatives, were funded to complement and add value to existing programmes and services under the themes of education, prevention, treatment, aftercare, rehabilitation and reducing supply.

In November 1998 following an independent evaluation, the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion approved the continuation of the Local Drugs Task Forces for a further minimum two year period. The National Drugs Strategy Team subsequently reviewed the operation of the Task Forces, taking account of the recommendations of the evaluator, and reached agreement with them on a number of measures aimed at strengthening their impact. The Minister of State for Local Development and with special responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy, Mr. Chris Flood, T.D., obtained the approval of the Cabinet Committee for these measures in July, 1999.

The Cabinet Committee has allocated a further £15 million towards this initiative over the period 2000-2001. This funding will enable the Task Forces to update their actions plans and also tackle issues which need to be addressed on a cross-Task Force basis.

1.2 SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

In 1997 the Tallaght Drugs Task Force (TDTF) produced a Service Development Plan in accordance with the procedures which had been put in place by the National Drugs Strategy Team. The objectives of this plan were to detail the nature and extent of the drugs problem in Tallaght; to describe the existing level of provision in relation to the drugs issue within Tallaght; and to recommend a series of actions/projects which needed to be funded/supported (around the key themes of treatment and rehabilitation, education and prevention, and reducing the supply of drugs in the Tallaght area). The 1997 Service Development Plan formed the basis for the approval of monies to over 20 projects which were involved in providing treatment and rehabilitation to drug users, in developing drugs education and drugs prevention initiatives at the local level and in curtailing the supply of drugs into local communities in Tallaght.

In 1999 it was considered to be both necessary and appropriate to review the progress which had been made in relation to the 1997 Service Development Plan and to draw up a new plan for the 2001-2004 period. Circumstances and needs had changed between 1997 and 2000, and it was important that these should be reflected in the production of the 2001-2004 Service Development Plan. It was also considered important that the experiences of the projects supported through the 1997 Service Development Plan should be assessed and reviewed - this review process could help to inform the production of the 2001-2004 plan. In formulating the 2001-2004 plan there was a general consensus that the new plan should be more strategic and less project focused than the 1997 plan -whilst it is important to detail the types of projects and initiatives which need to be supported between 2001 and 2004, it is equally important that the TDTF develops a cohesive, coherent, co-ordinated and integrated series of strategies which would aim to combat the unacceptably high level of drug misuse/abuse within the Tallaght area.

In this context the 2001-2004 Service Development Plan would seek to articulate the overall needs and requirements in relation to the drugs situation in Tallaght, and not merely list the types of projects which might receive assistance through the money that has been allocated through the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion. Therefore, the 2001-2004 Service Development Plan would consider the responsibilities and potential roles of all the key agencies and organisations involved in the various aspects of the drugs issue in Tallaght (i.e. treatment, rehabilitation, prevention, education, supply of drugs); and would aim to formulate a comprehensive, co-ordinated and integrated approach to combating the drugs crisis within the Tallaght area.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

In the period from January 2000 to June 2000 Stephen Rourke, the researcher employed to review the implementation of the 1997 Service Development Plan and to formulate the 2001-2004 Development Plan, carried out group discussions and individual interviews with a range of interested parties - the management committee of the TDTF sub-committees of the TDTF, project workers employed by projects funded through the TDTF, individual members of the TDTF and community leaders/workers within the Tallaght area. A two day meeting of the management committee of the TDTF also took place in Bellinter House on 16-17 June 2000 - this meeting and subsequent meetings between September 2000 and November 2000, provided opportunities for members of the management committee to comment on a draft discussion document produced by Stephen Rourke and to make further recommendations and suggestions in relation to the 2001-2004 Development Plan. In addition Stephen Rourke has analysed and examined a significant amount of written documentation produced by the TDTF and by projects funded through the TDTF. All of these review and evaluation actions have helped to identify the main priorities and focuses for the TDTF over the next three year period; and ways in which the TDTF might provide a more effective and comprehensive response to the drugs crisis within the Tallaght area.

1.4 STRUCTURE OF REPORT

The next section of this report will provide a profile of the Tallaght area (Section 2). Section 3 will detail the nature and extent of drug abuse/misuse within the Tallaght area. Section 4 will outline the responses to the drugs problem/crisis from relevant statutory agencies, voluntary organisations and community groups. Section 5 will consider the work and achievements of the TDTF between 1997 and 2000, with particular reference to the activities of the projects which have been funded through the TDTF. Section 6 of the report will outline the future priorities and focuses of the TDTF over the next three year period, and the main actions/initiatives which will to be developed in relation to the key themes of treatment, rehabilitation, education, prevention and reducing the supply of drugs. The final section of the report (Section 7) will detail the finances/resources which will be required to implement an integrated and co-ordinated response to the drugs problem/crisis within the Tallaght area.

2. PROFILE OF TALLAGHT

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The information contained in this section of the Service Development Plan has been extracted from a number of sources including the 1996 Census of Population, the Baseline Data Report prepared by GAMMA on behalf of the Tallaght Partnership, the national Household Budget Survey and other statistical data provided by the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs. The profile of Tallaght will be considered under the following headings:

- **Population and demographic trends.**
- **Employment and unemployment.**
- **Educational attainment and under achievement.**
- **Marginal/vulnerable groups.**

2.2 POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

The population of the Tallaght area in 1996 was 71,380. Whilst there had been a significant and substantial increase in the population of Tallaght from 1971 to 1991 it is noticeable that the population increase had slowed down to a figure of 1.4% in the period from 1991 to 1996 - the rate of population growth in Tallaght in this five year period was less than the average growth rate within the South Dublin County Council administrative area, within the Dublin region and within the Republic of Ireland.

In analysing the Census figures for Tallaght the following outcomes and trends emerge:

- The proportion of males in Tallaght has declined from 50.1% in 1986 to 49.5% in 1991 to 48.5% in 1996. There are nearly 2,000 more women than men in the 25-44 age category.
- Over half of the population of Tallaght were under the age of 25 at the time of the 1996 Census. There are noticeable shifts and trends within this age cohort as the children who were born in Tallaght in the 1970s and 1980s progress onto adolescence and adulthood. The proportion of the population aged under 5 years decreased by 45% from 1986 to 1996 and the proportion aged 15-19 years increased by 92% over the same 10 year period.
- The proportion of people over the age of 65 living in Tallaght is considerably less than the national average - 2.4% in Tallaght compared to a national figure of 11.4%

2.3 EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Labour force participation rates increased in Tallaght by 34.3% in the period from 1986 to 1996 - this compares favourably to a national increase in labour market participation rates of 15.4% for the same 10 year period. In 1996 the Tallaght area had a relatively high proportion of people employed in manufacturing, building/construction and transportation. The number of people employed in building/construction increased by 28% in the period from 1986 to 1996 (compared to a national increase in building/construction workers of 14.8%). The opportunities provided by the building boom in Tallaght have been particularly important for unemployed men - a large number of men who were unemployed through the 1980s and early 1990s had construction skills and experience.

In 1996, the proportion of unemployed people living in Tallaght was significantly higher than the regional and national average - 20.9% compared to a national figure of 15%. It is evident, however, that there has been significant, positive progress in relation to unemployment trends and patterns over the last four year period, as more local people take advantage of the employment opportunities being created within the Tallaght area - in the retail sector, in the tourism/hospitality industry, in the provision of professional services. The unemployment levels in Tallaght have fallen from 7,426 in June 1995 to 4,576 in June 1999, a significant drop of 38.3%. It is particularly noticeable and encouraging that the decrease in the rates of long-term unemployment exceeds the general reduction in unemployment - in the period from May 1997 to May 1999 there was a general decrease in unemployment in Tallaght of 20.7% whilst the comparative figure for the decrease in long-term unemployment was 34.1%.

In relation to the age profiles of unemployed people in Tallaght, 26.6% are aged 25 years or under and 38.4% are aged 40 and over. It is estimated that one of every four persons in receipt of unemployment benefit/payment is male and aged 40 years and over.

2.4 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND UNDER ACHIEVEMENT

There are significant levels of educational disadvantage and educational underachievement within the Tallaght area. A figure of 41.7% of the adult population of Tallaght left school at or before 15 years of age - this compares to a South Dublin County Council figure of 32% and a national figure of 35%. In relation to the number of people who progressed onto third level education, 6.8% of the adult population in Tallaght have remained in education until 20 years or more - this compares to a South Dublin County Council area average of 13.6% and a national average of 14.7%.

There is particular concern about the educational attainment levels of people who live in areas which have been designated as disadvantaged areas (on account of a range of factors relating to social and economic disadvantage). In relation to the disadvantaged District Electoral Divisions within Tallaght (especially within the west Tallaght area) it is estimated that 54% of the local adult population left school at or before 15 years of age whilst only 4.6% of the population in these disadvantaged areas progressed onto third level education. In relation to gender breakdown, 39.1% of the adult male population within the disadvantaged District Electoral Divisions had no formal education or only primary education whilst the comparative figure for females was 43.2%.

2.5 MARGINALISED/VULNERABLE GROUPS

In considering the socio-economic circumstances and conditions of people living within the Tallaght area, it is evident that there are a number of particular groups who are experiencing particularly high levels of marginalisation, poverty and social exclusion:

- ***Lone parents.*** In July 2000 there were 4,528 people in receipt of a lone parent payment from the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. In 1996, 13.7% of households were headed up by a lone parent with children of any age -this compares to a South Dublin County Council average of 10.8%, a regional/Dublin average of 10.8% and a national average of 10.1%. It is noticeable that the proportion of lone parents is particularly high in areas which have been designated as disadvantaged - in Fettercaim the proportion of lone parents was 20.4% in 1996 whilst the equivalent proportion in Jobstown was 24.8%. It is estimated that 98% of the lone parents in Tallaght are female.
- ***Travellers.*** The most recent information about the number of Travellers in Tallaght is contained in the 1996 South Dublin County Council Census of Travelling Families. This census concluded that:
 - 31 families are living on permanent sites.
 - 4 families live in special/caretaker housing.
 - 60 families live on temporary sites.
 - 21 families live on private sites.
 - 34 families live on roadside/unauthorised sites.
- ***People with disabilities.*** On the basis of national averages, it is estimated that 10-12% of the population can be categorised as people with disabilities - physical disability, mental disability, learning disability, emotional disability and sensory

disability. Therefore, it is estimated that approximately 7,000 people in Tallaght have some form of disability, a disability that inhibits their participation in work and activities which are considered to be normal/natural for the non-disabled section of the population. In May 2000, there were 1,050 Tallaght residents in receipt of Invalidity Pension and 782 residents in receipt of Disability Allowance.

- ***Homeless people.*** At the end of March 2000 1,054 persons were in receipt of rent supplement through the Supplementary Welfare Allowance. 173 persons were in receipt of mortgage supplement, 54 of whom had local authority mortgages. In the second quarter of 2000 the Tallaght Homeless Advice Unit was contacted by over 80 people per month who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- ***Offenders and ex prisoners.*** It is difficult to establish the number of ex-prisoners in the Tallaght community. At any one time the Tallaght office of the Probation and Welfare Service is supervising an average of 223 offenders on Probation and Community Service Orders.
- ***Ethnic minorities.*** A total of 565 non-national living in Tallaght were in receipt of a social welfare payment in May 2000. 385 asylum seekers were in receipt of the BASIC payment provided by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs and 180 were in receipt of Unemployment Assistance (UA). Data provided by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs at national level indicates that the numbers of individuals covered by these payments is over twice the number of claimants. Community Care Area 4 which encompasses Tallaght has the second highest number of asylum seekers in receipt of BASIC in the Eastern Regional Health Authority area.

3. NATURE AND EXTENT OF DRUG ABUSE/MISUSE WITHIN THE TALLAGHT AREA

3.1 NUMBER OF DRUG USERS/ABUSERS

On the basis of information produced by the Health Research Board it is estimated that there were 6,043 drug users involved in drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes and activities in the Republic of Ireland in 1998. Of this number, 5,655 had been connected to geographical locations (with the balance of 368 been categorised as 'area of residence not known'). In relation to the figure of 5,655 it is estimated that 463 (8.2% of the national number) live in the Tallaght area i.e. an area that comprises the Greenhills County Electoral Area, the Tallaght Oldbawn County Electoral Area and the Tallaght-Rathcoole County Electoral Area. This figure corresponds closely with the figure of 420 detailed in the 2000-2006 Area Action Plan of the Tallaght Partnership. On the basis of only one third of drug users connecting with treatment and rehabilitation services it is estimated that there are approximately 1,320 serious drug users within the Tallaght area i.e. drug users who are involved in taking heroin, morphine sulphate tablets, methadone, cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamines, benzodiazepines, LSD and cannabis on a regular and ongoing basis

A disturbing pattern in the period from 1996 to 1998 in the number of first time drug users from the Tallaght area. The figures produced from the Health Research Board would suggest that there has been a disturbingly high increase in the number of first time drug users from the Tallaght area - 40 (4% of the national figure) from the Greenhills County Electoral Area; 25 (2.5% of the national figure) from the Tallaght-Oldbawn County Electoral Area; 34 (3.4% of the national figure) from the Tallaght-Rathcoole County Electoral Area. In total, the proportion of serious first time drug users in Tallaght is approximately 9.9% of the serious first time drug using population in the Republic of Ireland - this represents a significant increase in recent years, from approximately 8.2% of the overall serious drug taking population to nearly 10% of the national figure of first time drug users.

3.2 PROFILE OF DRUG ABUSERS/MISUSERS

This section of the report is based on an analysis of the figures and outcomes produced by the Health Research Board. It is also based on an assumption that the profile of drug misusers/abusers corresponds reasonably closely to the overall patterns within the Eastern Regional Health Authority area. In analysing the figure and statistics produced by

the Health Research Board the following conclusions emerge in relation to the profile of drug misusers/abusers within the Tallaght area:

- 68.4% of drug misusers/abusers are male, 31.6% are female.
- 0.5% are under the age of 15, 19.9% are aged 15 to 19, 36.4% are aged 20 to 24, 22.3% are aged 25 to 29, 12.2% are aged 30 to 34, 5.6% are aged 35 to 39, 3.1% are aged 40 years and over.
- The highest level of educational attainment is as follows: primary education 10.1%-secondary education, 86%; third level education, 1.6%; still in education, 2.3%. The age at which drug misusers/abusers left school was as follows: under 15 years of age, 28.5%; at the age of 15, 29.7%; at the age of 16, 23.4%; at the age of 17, 10.7%; at the age of 18 and over, 5.6%; still at school, 2.1%. 18% are in regular/gainful employment, 74.6% are unemployed, 2.8% are on a FAS/training course, 2.3% are students, 1.3% are housewives/househusbands, 0.2% are retired/unable to work.
- 5.2% are living alone, 67.2% are living with parents/family, 2.2% are living with friends, 17.1% are living with partners, 1.0% are living in an institution, 3.0% are homeless and 3.0% are living alone with children.
- 71.1% are not living with another drug misuser/abuser whilst 28.9% are living with another drug user/misuser.
- The main drug of misuse is heroin (81.4%), morphine sulphate tablets (1.6%), methadone - non medical (6.3%), methadone - medical (1.2%), other opiates (1.1%), cocaine (1.1%), ecstasy (0.9%), amphetamines (0.5%), benzodiazepines (1.1%),cannabis (4.2%).
- The main route of administration is injecting, 58.4%; smoking, 30.9%; eating and drinking, 9.6%; sniffing, 1.1%.
- The frequency of use in the past month is: once a week or less, 6.4%; 2-6 days a week, 6.7%; daily, 66.9%; no use in the past month, 18.0%.
- The age at which the main drug has been used: under 15, 11.5%; 15-19 years of age, 59.5%; 20-24 years of age, 20.3%, 25 years and over, 8.7%. The duration of regular drug use/misuse: 1 year and less, 14.8%; 2-3 years, 30.7%; 4-5 years, 23.6%; 6-9 years, 12.1%; 10 years and over, 13.7%.
- 72.7% of serious drug users/misusers have injected and 26.3% of serious drug users/misusers have not injected.

- 49.4% of drug users/misusers have shared injecting equipment whilst 21.0% have never shared injecting equipment and 29.6% have never injected.
- 19.2% of the clients accessing treatment/rehabilitation services have linked into specialised residential services, 80.2% have linked into specialised non-residential services, 0.5% have linked into General Practitioner services and 0.1% have linked into services provided by the prison/probation services.
- 36.5% of referrals to treatment services have been self referrals, 15.1% have been referred by families/friends, 14.2% have been referred by drug treatment centres, 13.2% have been referred by General Practitioners, 3.3% have been referred by hospitals, 2.4% have been referred by social services, 7.1% have been referred by the courts/probation/police and 8.4% have been referred by other sources.

3.3 OVERALL ANALYSIS

It is considered that there has been a noticeable increase in the level and extent of drug misuse/abuse in the Tallaght area over the last three year period, from an estimated 1,000 serious/opiate drug users in 1997 (when the TDTF formulated its first Service Development Plan) to an approximate figure of 1,320 serious/opiate drug users in 2000, an increase of 32%. It is also evident that the drug misuse/abuse tends to be concentrated in those communities which are experiencing the highest levels of socio-economic disadvantage, poverty and social exclusion, with a larger proportion of drug misusers living in the west Tallaght area.

It is considered that more young people are experimenting with drugs/alcohol at a relatively young age and that the age profile of drug misusers has become younger over the course of the last three year period. In many parts of Tallaght there is widespread use of alcohol and cannabis amongst teenagers and pre teenagers and there is a view, amongst drugs workers and community activists, that young people are now getting involved in smoking/injecting heroin at an increasingly younger age.

There appears to be a wider diversity of drug taking within the Tallaght area. Whilst heroin is still the most prevalent and serious/dangerous drug being taken by drug misusers in Tallaght, there is growing evidence that drugs such as ecstasy, cocaine, and benzodiazepines are now being consumed in greater quantities within the Tallaght area. It is considered that the consumption of these drugs has risen significantly in the last two year period, since the 1997-98 Statistical Bulletin of the Health Research Board's National Drug Treatment Reporting System.

4. RESPONSES TO THE DRUGS PROBLEM/CRISIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In assessing the responses to the drugs problem/crisis within the Tallaght area, this section of the report will consider these responses under the following headings:

- **Responses from statutory agencies.**
- **Responses from youth organisations and educational bodies.**
- **Responses from community based groups and organisations.**

4.2 RESPONSES FROM STATUTORY AGENCIES

* SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

The main drugs related services provided by the Health Board are:

- **515 Main street, Tallaght**

Assessment Service	Counselling Service	2 Counsellors
Outreach Service		3 Outreach Workers
Drop In Service		Nurse in attendance/access to medical personnel. Counsellor available for one afternoon each week

- **Treatment Centres**

	Number	Places
Millbrook Lawns Health Centre Tallaght	40	40

The following Community Clinics receive funding and assistance from the South Western Area Health Board:

- **Community Clinics - Non Dispensing**

	Number	Places
Brookfield Addiction Support Programme Tallaght	20	20
Jobstown Assisting Drug Dependency Jobstown Tallaght	38	40
St. Angus Project Tymon North, Tallaght	40	40

The following Community Clinics are part funded by the South Western Area Health Board:

	Number	Places
Community Addiction Response Programme Killmarden Community Centre Tallaght,	73	75
Fettercaim Drug Rehabilitation Programme Fettercairn Community Centre Tallaght	30	30

The following drugs rehabilitation project is part funded by the South Western Area Health Board:

Tallaght Rehabilitation Project St. Thomas Church Jobstown Tallaght	12	15
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These additional services are also funded by the South Western Area Health Board:

General Practitioners 12 Level 1 - 145 Clients in treatment

Community Pharmacists - 10 329 Clients dispensed

Education Officer - Tallaght/Crumlin – Vacant - Advertised competition in process.

In addition to services in the Tallaght area there are a number of services provided by the South Western Area Health Board which are available to clients from the overall Eastern Regional Health Authority area.

South Western Area Health Board services available to drug users from the Tallaght Area.

Trinity Court
Merchants Quay

Respite

Rowan Ward Unit 3 Cherry Orchard Hospital

Detoxification

Detoxification Unit Cuan Dara	17 beds	6 week programme
Inpatient Treatment Pregnant Women		
Beaumont Hospital	10 beds	3 week programme
Cluain Mhuire	12 places	
Coolmine	80 places	
Rutland Centre	36 places per annum	- 6 week programme
Merchants Quay	12 beds High Park	3 months

Stabilisation Unit

Cherry Orchard Hospital 12 beds (currently recruiting staff)

Downstream (drug free programme) 20 beds (currently recruiting staff)

St. Marys Hospital

Proposed Services

Central Addiction Centre for Tallaght

Specified programme for young users

Mobile Bus - Dispensing and Out Reach Service

*** SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

South Dublin County Council's main responses to the drugs problem/crisis relate to (i) the provisions which exists within the 1966 Housing Act and the 1997 Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act for local authorities to evict tenants for anti-social behaviour (especially drug dealing) and (ii) the development of estate management initiatives which aim to develop a greater sense of partnership between the local authority and local tenants/community groups and which help to identify ways in which local estates in Tallaght can be made safer and more secure, and less prone to drug dealing at the local community level. In respect of eviction related issues, 55 housing units in the South Dublin area have been re-possessed by South Dublin County Council between 1997 and 2000 for reasons relating to anti-social behaviour. In a further 7 cases, tenants were evicted through a District Court order (within the aegis of the 1966 and 1977 Housing .Acts). In relation to estate management. South Dublin County Council currently employ two estate management workers from their administrative area (which includes Tallaght and

Clondalkin) and are in the process of recruiting an additional six estate management workers.

South Dublin County Council, through the work of its Community and Housing Departments, has supported the establishment and ongoing development of 10 Community Centres in Tallaght - these centres provide positive alternative and opportunities for local residents, alternatives which help to counteract the temptations of a drugs culture/lifestyle. South Dublin County Council has also provided support to tenant participation groups and to community based sports groups (through the development of pitches and a small grants scheme)

* **AN GARDA SIOCHANA**

The Tallaght Drugs Unit of An Garda Siochana currently comprises 9 people (1 sergeant and 8 other gardai). In addition there are?? Community Gardai in Tallaght who have responsibility for addressing the drugs issue as part of their wider community remit (and for helping to set up projects and initiatives which provide positive alternatives for young people in the Tallaght area).

In relation to the effectiveness of the gardai in relation to the drugs issue the following chart compares the level of prosecutions between 1990 and 1999 for drugs related offences.

Tallaght Garda District

Number of Prosecutions for Drug Related Offences

1990	1996	1999
51	156	244

Analysis of Prosecutions for 1996 and 1999

1996		1999	
Cannabis	- 74	Cannabis	- 169
Heroin	- 64	Heroin	- 52
Ecstasy	- 17	Ecstasy	- 10
Cocaine	- <u>1</u>	Cocaine	- 3
	156	LSD	- 2
		Amphetamines	- <u>15</u>
			251

In relation to other indicators of garda activity the following represents the level of drugs related garda activity in the period from April 2000 to June 2000:

	April 2000	May 2000	June 2000
Number of premises searched	5	8	8
Number of on-street searches	127	130	140
Number of vehicular checkpoints	17	15	13

An Garda Siochana is hoping to have additional resources allocated to the Drugs Unit for the Tallaght area so as to enable it to respond more rapidly to information supplied, to increase patrols in areas where drug dealing is most prevalent, to increase the number of detections of drug abuse/misuse and to arrest more offenders for breaches of the Misuse of Drugs Act.

* **PROBATION AND WELFARE SERVICE**

In its contribution to dealing with the drug problem in Tallaght, the main focus of the Probation and Welfare Service work is on offenders. However in line with its mission statement which includes fostering public safety, strong links exist with community based groups who are involved in treatment and rehabilitation.

Active involvement with these groups as well as with Health Board personnel facilities more integrated interventions in the lives of drug users as well as co-ordinating responses to the drug problem.

Specifically the Probation and Welfare Service in Tallaght contributes to work with drug users in the following areas:

- Preparing reports for Court on drug offenders and those on drug related charges.
- Supervision of drug users on Probation to the Courts.
- The West Tallaght Probation Project provides education, training and progression routes to employment for offenders (many of whom are on methadone programmes). There is a full-time programme for 16 to 18 year olds; a flexible learning centre which offers specific learning modules to offenders and their families; and an outdoor pursuits programme. This project has strong links with, and accepts referrals from, Jobstown Assisting Drug Dependency; Community Addiction Response Killinarden; Fettercaim Drug Rehabilitation Programme; St. Dominics; Health Board personnel and other community groups.

The West Tallaght Probation Project specifically acknowledges the strong links between drug abuse and offending behaviour and targets and confronts destructive offending behaviour patterns.

- Supervision of offenders stabilised on methadone on Community Service Orders.
- Membership of the TDTF since its inception.
- Membership of working sub-groups of the TDTF.
- Membership of the Management Committees of: St. Dominics Community Response; Tallaght Rehabilitation Project; Fettercairn Rehabilitation Project.

* **FAS**

In addition to its mainstream programmes and activities which can be accessed by local residents in Tallaght, FAS has supported the establishment and ongoing development of the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project. This project, which caters for recovering drug users in the Tallaght area, aims to create a therapeutic environment within which participants can gain insights and understanding into the issues which underpin their addiction. The Tallaght Rehabilitation Project is a special FAS Community Employment scheme and FAS cover the costs associated with the employment of a Community Employment supervisor, the payment of allowances to participants and contributions towards the overheads/running costs of the project. The Tallaght Rehabilitation Project, which provides developmental and training opportunities for 15 recovering drug users, commenced its activities with its main target group in February 2000. The project is aimed at people within the 18-30 years age group who are either drug free or stabilised on low dose methadone for at least a 12 month period.

The one year programme for the participants on the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project comprises three main phases: Phase 1 focusing on personal development, parenting skills, self esteem, personal health/hygiene; Phase 2 focusing on arts, drama, creative writing, communications skills and cultural exchanges; and Phase 3 focusing on computer skills, CV preparation, role play interviews and holistic medicines. The management committee for the Tallaght Rehabilitation project includes representatives from the TDTF, FAS, the Probation and Welfare Service, South Dublin Chamber of Commerce, the South Western Area Health Board and the local communities within the Tallaght area.

4.3 RESPONSES FROM YOUTH ORGANISATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL BODIES

* **TALLAGHT YOUTH SERVICE**

The Tallaght Youth Service is run by Foróige on behalf of County Dublin Vocational Education Committee.

Good quality youth work provides young people with opportunities for safe socialising with peers and adult role models with whom they can relate. It gives young people opportunities for personal development, community involvement, decision making and responsibility. Through good youth work programmes young people develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes that enable them to develop a healthy and drug free lifestyle.

The Youth Service provides support and back-up to voluntary youth groups' education programmes and training for particular groups of young people, eg. early school leavers, young mothers and young people at risk; preventative programmes for early school leavers in partnership with schools and school holiday programmes.

The Tallaght Youth Service provides:

- Services to Voluntary Youth Groups:
- Training
- Programme Development
- Advice, Assistance and Information.
- Help starting up new groups.
- Financial Assistance towards training.
- Equipment Pool.

There are approximately 150 voluntary youth groups excluding sports groups in Tallaght.

- Training and Education Programmes (including a placement/referral service) for:
 - Early School Leavers.
 - Potential Early School Leavers
 - Young Mothers.
 - Young People At Risk.
 - Travellers.
- Summer Holiday Programmes:
 - Breakaways.
 - Courses.
 - Workshops.
 - Outdoor Pursuits.
- Services to Schools:
 - Student Council training.
 - Drug/Alcohol Awareness Education.
 - Programmes for Potential Early School Leavers.

- Additional Education Support Programmes for Potential Early School Leavers.
- Signs and Symptoms of Drug Abuse Workshops for Parents.
- Youth Information Centre:
 - Information on youth related topics.
 - Publications.
 - Exhibitions.
 - Workshops.
- The Tallaght Youth Service also runs projects in partnership with other agencies and local communities
 - The KEY and JAY Projects funded by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.
 - The STAY Project funded by the Tallaght Drugs Task Force.
 - Peer Education Programme funded by Tallaght Drugs Task Force.
 - Killinarden Education Network on behalf of Tallaght Partnership and funded by the Combat Poverty Agency.
 - Brookfield Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund Project for Young People At Risk.
 - Springfield Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund Project.
- * In addition to the youth work activities and programmes organised and managed by Tallaght Youth Service, there are a range of other initiatives and projects within the Tallaght area which are targeted at young people (and especially young people at risk of becoming involved in delinquent, anti-social or criminal activity). These initiatives have been developed by a number of different groups and organisations including schools (where there is an increasing focus on drugs education/prevention). Community Training Workshops, Youthreach projects and individual youth groups/clubs within the Tallaght area.

4.4 RESPONSES FROM COMMUNITY BASED GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

There has been a significant and noticeable increase in the level and extent of community development work and community based projects/initiatives in the Tallaght area over the last five year period. This community development work and the establishment of

new community projects/initiatives have been supported by organisations like the TDTF (who have provided developmental and financial assistance to groups/projects involved in drug treatment, drug rehabilitation, drugs education/prevention and curbing the supply of drugs into local communities in Tallaght); the Tallaght Partnership (who have also provided developmental assistance and direct financial support to local community based groups and organisations in Tallaght); the South Dublin URBAN Initiative (which has allocated funding to a number of community based projects/programmes in the Tallaght area); the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund (which has provided financial support to projects/organisations which are working with young people who have been categorised as vulnerable/'at risk'); and the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs which provides ongoing financial support to five Community Development Projects (Jobstown Community Development Project, Special Project on Long Term Unemployment, Tallaght Lone Parents Centre, Tallaght Travellers Community Development Project, West Tallaght Resource Centre) and two Family Resource Centres (Killinarden Family Resource Centre, St. Kevin's Family Resource Centre) within the Tallaght area.

In relation to the drugs problem/crisis the following community based projects and initiatives are considered to be particularly relevant:

- Local treatment centres have been set up in five locations within the Tallaght area. They provide a range of assistance and supports to local drug users (eg. prescribing of methadone, urine screening," individual and group counselling, rehabilitation activities) and they are linked into other services being provided by relevant statutory agencies and voluntary organisations. The local treatment centres are community managed initiatives which receive financial support from the South Western Area Health Board and the TDTF.
- Community based drugs education and prevention initiatives. A number of these project/initiatives have been set up in recent years (eg. Killinarden Drug Primary Prevention Group, St. Dominies Community Response) and a large number of local people have participated in drugs education/awareness work being carried out by organisations like Community Awareness of Drugs. These community focused responses have helped to increase the levels of local understanding and awareness of the drugs issue within individual communities in Tallaght.
- Action has taken place at the local, community level in relation to curbing the supply of drugs into the Tallaght area. This type of direct action (which involves identifying suspected drug dealers and putting pressure on them to leave their

houses if they continue to deal in drugs) has resulted in a number of alleged/suspected drug dealers deciding to vacate their houses within individual communities. There is a view that the local action work of local communities in Tallaght, which has been supported by the national Coalition of Communities Against Drugs (CCAD) organisation, has resulted in less open/overt drug dealing within estates in the Tallaght area.

4.5 ASSESSMENT OF RESPONSES AND GAPS IN PROVISION/SERVICES

In assessing the existing responses to the drugs problem/crisis and in considering outstanding gaps in provision the following conclusions emerge:

- The drugs problem in Tallaght has not diminished over the last three year period and there is evidence to suggest that more local people are becoming involved in drug taking at an increasingly younger age.
- There has been an encouraging and positive development of drugs related services and programmes since 1997 - many of these services/programmes have been supported by organisations like the TDTF and the South Western Area Health Board.
- The current level of services/provision is still inadequate in relation to the key issues of drug treatment, drug rehabilitation, drugs education, drugs prevention and curbing the supply of drugs into the Tallaght area.
- In relation to drug treatment, it is estimated only 35-40% of serious/opiate drug taking population in Tallaght are currently participating in treatment programmes. The dual challenge is (i) to increase the number of treatment places available to local drug users and (ii) to diversify the range and scope of treatment options. It is anticipated that the proposed Central Addiction Centre in Tallaght will lead to a significant increase in the number and diversity of treatment options/places available to local drug users.
- The rehabilitation and aftercare options being provided to local drug users is wholly inadequate. The Tallaght Rehabilitation Project, which caters for 15 drug users, is the only dedicated rehabilitation and aftercare facility which provides a structured, intensive and long-term rehabilitation programme. Rehabilitation and aftercare provision needs to be expanded as a matter of urgency.
- The range of family support services for drug users and their families needs to be increased significantly. Whilst organisations like Barnardos, with support from the

TDTF, have carried out important and valuable work in the area of family support services for drug users, it is evident that these services need to be expanded significantly, in order to provide a holistic and integrated approach to the needs of families who have been affected by the drugs problem.

- In relation to the issues of drugs education, some useful and important work has taken place in individual locations/schools over the last three year period. It is evident, however, that drugs education has not been mainstreamed into the curriculum of all schools and youth groups/organisations in Tallaght. A key challenge for the next 3-5 year period is to develop and implement a drugs education programme/strategy which would have a Tallaght wide focus and which would involve many more schools, youth groups, adult/continuing education groups.
- More facilities and services need to be provided for young people in the Tallaght area, facilities/services which would provide positive alternatives for young people who are at risk of becoming involved in drug misuse/abuse. The current range of youth facilities in Tallaght is totally inadequate for the size “of the local youth population, and a major programme of investment in youth services and facilities will be required over the next 3-5 year period.
- In relation to curbing the supply of drugs and apprehending drug dealers, there is an urgent need to increase the resources which are currently available to An Garda Siochana in the Tallaght area. There is a need for the Tallaght Drugs Squad to be strengthened, for a more visible garda presence in local estates/communities and for more community gardai to be deployed in the Tallaght area. The resources currently available to the gardai in Tallaght are insufficient to meet the scale and nature of the threat which is being presented by drug dealers - it is considered that a more active and visible garda presence will play a significant role in helping to curb the supply of drugs into the Tallaght area.
- There is a need to enhance the existing estate management initiatives as a means of improving co-operation and co-ordination between local residents/groups and relevant statutory agencies. The existing estate management strategies in Tallaght are under-resourced and piecemeal, with no strong leadership coming from the key statutory agency i.e. South Dublin County Council. In this context there is a need for South Dublin County Council to give greater priority to estate management

initiatives and, in particular, to expedite the employment of a number of additional estate management workers.

- The Miscellaneous Provisions section of the 1997 Housing Act (which allows for the eviction of drug dealers from local authority housing units) has not been implemented by South Dublin County Council in a particularly robust or pro-active manner. It is considered that South Dublin County Council should play a more active role in trying to identify drug dealers (together with local community groups/organisations) and in enacting the legislation which enables it to evict tenants for drug dealing activity.
- There is a need to strengthen the community infrastructure within the Tallaght area. The significant growth and proliferation in community projects over the last five year period has not been matched by a similar increase in local residents putting themselves forward for positions on local management committees and project teams. In this context there is a need to develop strategies which will encourage more local people to become more involved in local community projects/activities (especially in relation to the drugs issue), and to ensure that these local people are provided with the appropriate types of support, education and training.
- Effective responses to the drugs problem/crisis will require a co-ordinated and integrated response from a range of government departments, statutory agencies, voluntary organisations, community based groups/projects and local residents/tenants associations. In order to tackle the scourge and dangers of the drugs problem/crisis it is evident that a multi-agency co-ordinated response will be required - given the complexity of the drugs issue it is unlikely that individual agencies/organisations working in isolation from each other will achieve a significant amount. It is recognised that there have been a number of positive inter-agency and multi-agency initiatives over the last three year period (including the establishment of the TDTF) - it is anticipated that this type of integrated inter-agency work will need to be intensified over the next five years in order to provide effective and meaningful responses to the real dangers that are being presented by the unacceptable and disturbingly high levels of drug misuse/abuse within the Tallaght area.

5. WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE TDTF, 1997 - 2000

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the document will consider the work and the achievements of the TDTF between 1997 and 2000. This analysis of the work of the TDTF will be considered from two perspectives:

- **The outcomes and the results which have emerged from the projects and the actions funded through the TDTF.**
- **The role and function of the TDTF in supporting the funded projects and in developing other actions/initiatives relating to the drugs issue in Tallaght.**

5.2 PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH THE TDTF

(i) Selection of projects

The first meeting of the TDTF took place on 4 February 1997 - at this initial meeting, it was agreed that the Service Development Plan should be produced within a 12 week timeframe. In order to inform the compilation and production of the Service Development Plan an advertisement inviting proposals and suggestions to the TDTF was placed in the local newspapers in February 1997. In addition, the TDTF wrote to over 100 local groups, organisations, agencies and individuals inviting them to make submissions and contributions to the Service Development Plan process. A total of 29 funding proposals were received - the overall cost of these proposals was £1.75 million. These proposals were initially assessed by the relevant sub-committees within the TDTF. In order to ensure consistency and fairness the proposals were then considered by a small group comprising of the chairperson of the TDTF, the acting co-ordinator of the TDTF and the manager of the Tallaght Partnership. The decision to set up this group also helped to ensure that projects being sponsored by groups/organisations which had a direct representation on the management committee of the TDTF did not have an unfair, competitive advantage.

This assessment and selection process resulted in 21 projects being recommended for funding within the Service Development Plan, at a total cost of £890,000. In presenting these projects and proposals to the government (through the National Drugs Strategy Team), the TDTF emphasised the following points:

- *In devising its Service Plan TDTF has proceeded in a responsible and professional manner. Twenty one of the twenty nine funding proposals received in time for consideration have been included at a total cost of £890,000. In nearly all cases*

sponsoring groups were asked to refine their funding request to a particular aspect of their proposal which identified/or inclusion.

- *This approach was taken because TDTF was conscious that the overall funding package available to all 13 Task Forces was finite. The Task Force was conscious also of its responsibility to propose a service plan that was both manageable and realisable in a short time frame. It would have been easy for TDTF to include all funding proposals made to it and to make a request for funding of £1.75 million. This approach was not taken.*
- *Having adopted a responsible approach TDTF would emphasise that all the service proposals contained in this plan are priority proposals. The budget of under £900,000 is realistic and, relative to the needs of the area, a modest one.*

- TDTF, Service Development Plan 1997

A number of revisions and alterations have taken place in relation to the funding which has been allocated to individual projects. Some projects did not proceed as planned whilst other projects requested additional funding for their activities.

(ii) Targets contained in the 1997 Service Development Plan

The service development projects contained in the 1997 Service Development Plan focused on the areas of treatment and rehabilitation, education and prevention, supply and estate management. The targets established for each of these work areas are as follows:

- The development of a network of local treatment centres with a wide range of services and the potential to provide up to 185 treatment places.
- The introduction of a new and complementary rehabilitation project catering for up to 20 participants at any one time.
- The establishment of a number of community based education projects which will reach over 800 young people and parents.
- The introduction of specialised projects designed to respond to over 60 “at risk” young people in four different communities.
- The piloting of new and integrated responses to the problem of supply and drug dealing in four estates.
- Support for two training courses which will improve the skills and expertise of over 35 local workers.
- The establishment of an innovative response to the needs of “at risk” families. The extent to which these targets have been met will be considered later in this section of the discussion document.

(iii) Treatment and rehabilitation projects

In the 1997 Service Development Plan the TDTF identified four key focuses in relation to the area of treatment and rehabilitation:

- *Strengthening the Local Treatment Centre Network.* The TDTF clearly identified the role of local treatment centres in providing services to drug users within a number of specific geographical areas in Tallaght. The 1997 Service Development Plan recommended that funding be approved to five treatment centre projects within Tallaght: the Community Addiction Response Programme in Killinarden, St. Aengus Community Action Group, Jobstown Assisting Drug Dependency, Fettercairn Drug Rehabilitation Programme and Brookfield Addiction Support Programme. Funding was subsequently approved and allocated to these five projects. It is evident that the treatment centres/projects in Killinarden, St. Aengus parish area, Jobstown and Fettercairn have provided a good and useful service to drug users in these districts within Tallaght - there have been a number of difficulties in the development of the treatment service/project within Brookfield. In assessing the work and achievements of the various drug treatment projects funded through the TDTF the following outcomes and results have emerged:
 - A total of 43 8 drug users have been assisted through the local treatment centres. This compares to an original target figure of 185 drug users. These treatment centres generally provide a high quality range of supports and services to drug users within the geographical areas where the treatment centres are located.
 - There has been a high retention rate of drug users on methadone maintenance programmes, with a low drop out level. This is an indication of the relevance of the services being delivered and the ways in which these services are considered to be accessible and user friendly by drug users. The local treatment centres have provided a range of rehabilitation services to drug users within the Tallaght area, and have played a lead role in the (re-integration of drug users into the community and into various labour market measures.
 - The positive progress which has been made by clients of the treatment centres (in relation to issues like personal health, employment, improved family relationships). A significant number of drug misusers are now stable and are not using heroin.

- The greater awareness and understanding of the needs of drug users within the local communities in Tallaght. There has been relatively little resistance to the establishment and development of local treatment centres within Tallaght - there has been a conscious effort made to inform local residents about these treatment centres and an understanding of the need to work with local drug users in a sensitive and empathetic manner.
- The networking which has taken place between the local treatment centres/projects and between these centres/projects and other drugs projects in Tallaght and in other parts of Dublin - these contacts and networks have enabled project sponsors to link into the experiences of other groups/projects which are also trying to deal with the needs and requirements of drug misusers.
- *Providing support for young parents who are using drugs.* In the 1997 Service Development Plan the TDTF identified the clear need to work with drug users who are also the parents of small children. In addition to the vulnerability of the drug users there were also obvious dangers and concerns in relation to their children (and the capacity of drug using parents to perform their parenting role in an effective and appropriate manner). The 1997 Service Development Plan recommended that funding be approved to one project which intended to work specifically with the families of drug using parents: a family support project being developed by Barnardos (this project was subsequently named the Lorien project). It is evident that this project has carried out significant work with drug users, with their children and with their extended families in the Tallaght area. The experience of the Lorien project has emphasised the need to adopt a holistic and integrated approach when dealing with drug using parents of young children - in order to provide an effective response to this particular category of drug user, it is important to address all the relationships and issues within the family unit and not to solely concentrate on the addiction and addictive behaviour of the individual drug user. In assessing the work and achievements of the Lorien family support project, the following outcomes and results have emerged:
 - The project has worked with 63 families since it was established in 1997. **On** the basis of 2-3 people per family unit it is estimated that the project has impacted on approximately 150 people (drug users, their children, extended

family members who have assumed carer responsibilities for the children of drug users).

- Intensive work has taken place with the drug users (through the establishment of parents groups, parent and toddler groups), with children (through pre-school groups and after school groups) and with carers (through the establishment of a carers group).
- The extent to which family units have remained intact, in spite of problems and pressures/tensions caused by drug abuse within the family. The ways in which members of the three target groups (drug users, children, extended family/carers) have linked into other projects and services within the Tallaght area. The Lorien project has enabled a significant number of people to access these services, through the provision of information, advice, support and guidance.
- *Creating a more co-ordinated response amongst treatment providers.* In the 1997 Service Development Plan, the TDTF recognised the importance of treatment services being provided in a more integrated manner and the need for greater coordination and co-operation between various statutory, voluntary and community groups/ organisations. Particular reference was made to the need for more integrated policies and procedures in relation to issues like the prescribing and dispensing of methadone, the involvement of general practitioners in treatment, the provision of a locally based urine screening service and the compilation of a register of clients accessing treatment services in Tallaght. The 1997 Service Development Plan recommended that the TDTF would convene meetings of treatment providers and explore what mechanisms can be put in place to ensure ongoing co-operation, organise one or two seminars on treatment provision, and encourage the sharing of information through publications. These activities were to be developed directly through the TDTF. In assessing the work and achievements of the TDTF in achieving these objectives/targets the following outcomes and results have emerged:
 - The treatment and rehabilitation sub-committee of the TDTF has been a useful forum for sharing information and experiences. Although this subcommittee has only met on a sporadic basis over the last year, it has the potential to contribute to a greater understanding and awareness of various treatment options and alternatives. This potential is likely to be enhanced if the sub-committee was to co-opt other individuals who have knowledge and

experiences of different approaches towards the issue of drug treatment and drug rehabilitation.

- The project leaders/co-ordinators involved in the local treatment centres have met on a regular basis. These meetings have created opportunities for the project leaders/co-ordinators to consider outstanding gaps in provision and ways in which the centres might provide a more co-ordinated and integrated approach to the needs of drug users within the Tallaght area.
- Further work needs to take place in the examination and exploration of national and international practice/experience in relation to drug treatment and drug rehabilitation. There is a view that the current focus on methadone maintenance stabilisation programmes is too narrowly focused, and that this needs to be complemented by other treatment options and approaches. In this context, it is considered important to link into relevant experiences and models of good practice which have been developed in other locations in Ireland and in other countries. It is encouraging to note that a number of projects in Tallaght have already linked into the information sharing and dissemination services which are provided by organisations like Citywide.
- There is a need to create a forum through which representatives of the South Western Area Health Board, the local treatment centres, general practitioners and pharmacists can meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of common interest/concern eg. waiting lists for treatment, methadone protocol, Central Addiction Centre. There is a feeling that the level and quality of provision amongst the providers of treatment services could be improved and enhanced if there was a greater sharing of information, experiences and suggestions/ideas amongst personnel who are in regular and direct contact with drug users. Particular references were made to more regular consultations and discussions around the methadone protocol and the relative roles of general practitioners and pharmacists within drugs strategies that are being developed in the Tallaght area.
- *Establishing a rehabilitation project.* The 1997 Service Development Plan recognised the need to develop rehabilitation programmes and options for drug users within the Tallaght area. It was considered most important that rehabilitation and integration should form a key element within the services provided to drug users, and that methadone maintenance stabilisation programmes would be limited

in their effectiveness and impact if they were not accompanied by initiatives which would aim to integrate drug users back into the labour market and into the wider community in which they live. The Service Development Plan recommended that a pilot project be initiated directly by the TDTF, a project which would be accessed by people attending the local treatment centres. This recommendation led to the establishment of the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project which has been developed by a number of people directly involved in the TDTF. Since this project only became operational in February 2000, it is too early to assess its impact and effectiveness. However, on the basis of experiences over the last three year period and the work of the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project since February 2000, the following outcomes and conclusions have emerged:

- The Tallaght Rehabilitation Project is currently working with 14 drug users. These drug users, who have been drawn from other projects and treatment centres within the Tallaght area, are participating in a fairly intensive programme of activity for 20 hours each week (supported through a special Community Employment scheme). The local treatment centres in Tallaght also provide rehabilitation services and supports for the clients who access these centres.
- There is clear need to further develop and expand the rehabilitation options available to drug users within the Tallaght area. The treatment plans formulated for drug users need to be complemented by significant ^ rehabilitation plans/programmes - these rehabilitation plans/programmes would aim to identify mechanisms through which drug users are provided with opportunities to enhance their skills, self confidence and self belief at the same time as tackling their addiction and their addictive behaviour. There is some concern that drug users are not being presented with these types of opportunities and that a structured procedure/system for drawing up personal rehabilitation action plans does not currently exist.
- It is necessary to build on the experiences of the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project and to set up additional rehabilitation initiatives within the Tallaght area, initiatives which have the potential to provide rehabilitation services for up to 60 drug users. These initiatives might take the form of rehabilitation centres/projects (like the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project) or might involve a number of public and private sector service delivery

agencies/organisations (in the areas of employment, training and education) working together to design tailor made rehabilitation programmes for drug users within the Tallaght area.

(iv) Education and prevention projects

In the 1997 Service Development Plan the TDTF identified four key focuses in relation to the areas of drugs education, drugs awareness and drugs prevention:

- *Supporting community based education and awareness projects.* In addition to providing treatment and rehabilitation activities for drug users, the TDTF also recognised the need to carry out education and preventive work with children and young people, work which aims to educate and inform young people about the dangers and the consequences of drug misuse/abuse. The 1997 Service Development Plan recommended that funding be approved to three projects which aimed to heighten awareness and understanding of the drugs issue both within the local communities in Tallaght and within the formal education system: St. Dominies Community Response, the Peer Education Programme of Tallaght Youth Service and Killinarden Drug Primary Prevention Group. Funding was subsequently approved and allocated to these three projects. It is evident that the projects have worked with a large number of children, young people and adults over the last three year period and have helped to create a greater sense of understanding and awareness about the drugs issue and about the dangers/consequences of drug misuse/abuse. In assessing the work and achievements of these projects, the following outcomes and results have emerged:
 - The projects have delivered drugs education and drugs awareness programme/modules to 1748 people. This compares to an original target figure of 800 people.
 - The extent to which local people have developed leadership and facilitation skills through their participation in the projects - rather than depending on outside trainers and facilitators, the projects have succeeded in providing local people with the skills and confidence to deliver drugs education/ awareness programmes within their own geographical areas.
 - The willingness of schools to participate in projects which have been developed by community based groups and organisations. Schools are acutely aware of the need to inform and educate children and young people about the drugs issue and they recognise the benefits of linking into locally

based drugs awareness projects (through which local people living within the community are directly involved in delivering drugs awareness programmes and modules). In a number of instances, this process has led to new and more positive relationships being established between schools and local community based projects.

- The three projects have clearly demonstrated the benefits of utilising the skills, commitment and knowledge of local people to deliver drugs awareness and education programmes - they know about the circumstances and situations of children and young people living within their areas, they can talk to children and young people in a language which they can understand, they can develop training and resource materials which are appropriate to the culture and backgrounds of children and” young people attending primary schools and second level schools in Tallaght. The experiences of the drugs awareness and education projects supported through the TDTF should be fully evaluated, with a view to extending the lessons and the developmental approaches which have piloted through these projects to other locations/schools within the Tallaght area.
- *Providing specialised responses to vulnerable young people.* There is clear correlation between early school leaving, educational disadvantage and increased vulnerability to involvement in drugs and criminal behaviour. Research would indicate that a substantial proportion of drug users and people with criminal convictions left school at an early age without any effective educational qualifications. In this type of context the TDTF identified the need to support projects which aimed to work with potential early school leavers and other vulnerable young people and to provide them with the confidence and self-belief which would increase their chances of remaining at school and lessen the likelihood of these young people getting involved in drugs and other anti-social or criminal behaviour. The 1997 Service Development Plan recommended that funding be approved to four projects which aimed to work with vulnerable, ‘at risk’ young people: St. Aengus Awareness Project (later titled STAY project), Jobstown Community College, the ‘Line’ project in Killinarden and a Tallaght Youth Service initiative for young people ‘at risk’ in Fettercairn. Funding was subsequently approved and allocated to all four of these projects. In assessing the work and

achievements of the three operational projects which did carry out direct work with young people, the following outcomes and results have emerged:

- The projects have worked with approximately 150 children and young people between 1997 and 2000. Most of these children and young people had been identified as potential early school leavers and vulnerable/'at risk' in relation to drugs, addiction, anti-social behaviour. The figure of 150 children and young people compares to an original projected target of 60 vulnerable/'at risk' young people.
- There have been significant improvements in the school attendance patterns of many of the children and young people who are attending the projects being supported by the TDTF. Parents, teachers and youth workers have also commented upon the ways in which the young people participating in the projects have improved their social and communications skills, and seem to have a greater degree of self confidence and self esteem. These are considered to be important qualities and attributes in relation to decisions to remain in school and to refrain from getting involved in drugs and anti-social behaviour/activities.
- The interventions which have taken place have served to emphasise the importance of providing an intensive series of supports over a fairly protracted period of time. While the young people are responding well to the activities which have been developed by the funded projects, there can be little doubt that the effectiveness of these projects would be greatly enhanced if they were able to work in an intensive way with a selected group of children and young people over perhaps a 4-5 year period (final years in primary school, first three years in second level school). In order to achieve the desired outcomes (i.e. young people remaining at school, young people not getting involved in drugs and anti-social/criminal behaviour), there is a need to develop long-term strategies which will involve an integrated and co-ordinated series of projects actions/activities. The development of these long-term strategies will “ require long-term commitments of financial support from relevant funding agencies and organisations - one-off allocations of money which enable projects to work with young people for a one or two year period are not appropriate in the context of tackling educational disadvantage, discouraging young people

from getting involved in drugs and anti-social activities and developing positive options and alternatives for vulnerable/'at risk' young people in the Tallaght area.

- *Responding creatively to the needs of 'at risk' families.* The 1997 Service Development Plan recognised that there are a considerable number of families who are effected by serious problems relating to marital breakdown, poverty, domestic violence and child neglect. These problems often have a drugs dimension - in some situations they are caused by drug misuse whilst in other circumstances they can lead to family members using drugs as a way of resolving other difficulties within their lives. The Service Development Plan proposed the establishment of a fund which would encourage and support innovative family support initiatives which were focused on vulnerable families who were effected, or in danger of being effected by, the drugs problem. This fund has been used to support actions being developed by Killinarden Community School, Mol an Oige, Outdoor Pursuits Group (Glenshane), Youth Horizons (Jobstown), Barnardos Youth Action Project, the Fettercairn Horse Project, The Shanty, Tallaght Centre for the Unemployed, YMCA Peer Education for Fathers, Fettercairn Summer Project and KEY (Killinarden Engages Youth). Most of these actions have focused on working with young people who are considered to be vulnerable or 'at risk'. There is a need to give further consideration to carrying out more intensive work with the wider family unit - the Lorien project being promoted by Bamardos has clearly demonstrated the benefits of working in a holistic and integrated way with families who have been effected or are in danger of being effected by the drugs problem. Drugs is an issue which impacts upon whole families and whole communities - therefore, in addition to working with individual drug users it is also important to work with the family of which the drug user is a member and the community within which the drug user is a resident.
- *Improving the skills of local workers engaged in drugs related work.* There is a need to ensure that workers involved in drugs projects and initiatives have the skills, confidence, knowledge and information to carry out useful and productive work with drug users, families of drug users and children/young people who are in danger of getting involved in drug misuse/abuse. There has been a significant increase and growth in the number of drug related projects and initiatives in the Tallaght area over the last 5 year period - it is important that these projects are able to recruit

skilled workers and that existing employees are presented with regular and ongoing opportunities to enhance their own skills and knowledge. The 1997 Service Development Plan recommended that funding be approved to two initiatives which aimed to develop the skills/knowledge of local drugs workers and others with an interest in the drugs issue within the Tallaght area: the Community Addiction Studies Course in the Institute of Technology Tallaght and training courses to be organised by The Shanty. Funding was subsequently approved and allocated to these training actions. In assessing the work and achievements of these initiatives, the following outcomes and results have emerged:

- Over 100 local people have participated in training activities which aim to enhance their skills, understanding, awareness and knowledge about the drugs issue. The Community Addiction Studies Course in the Institute of Technology Tallaght has involved approximately 60 people (3 courses x 20 people each course); a training course organised by The Shanty involved approximately 30 people; local people have participated on training courses organised by Community Awareness of Drugs (CAD); and bursaries have been awarded to four people who are involved in studying drugs related issues/topics.
- There is a need to develop a more modular and integrated approach towards the training and development of local drugs workers within an area like Tallaght. Whilst the types of courses and programmes that have taken place in Tallaght over the last three years have given local people a good introduction and foundation for carrying out work in the drugs area, there is also a sense that more advanced and intensive training should also be organised for people who want to learn more about the drugs issue and/or who want to specialise on a particular issue/aspect relating to drug treatment, drug rehabilitation, drugs awareness or drugs awareness/education. Progression routes should be developed through which local drugs workers in Tallaght can build upon prior learning and be presented with opportunities to enhance and upgrade their skills and knowledge. In this context there is also a need to consider the issue of accreditation, and ways in which training courses organised at the local level within Tallaght might receive appropriate accreditation/qualifications from appropriate accrediting bodies/agencies.

(v) Supply and Estate Management

The 1997 Service Development Plan identified two main focuses in relation to the areas of supply of drugs and estate management:

- *Piloting co-ordinated responses to drug dealing at the neighbourhood level.* The TDTF recognises the importance of estate management initiatives which involve the active participation of the local community and relevant statutory/voluntary organisations and agencies. Estate management programmes can be a useful mechanism through which representatives of community groups/organisations and representatives of statutory bodies can come together on a regular basis to discuss issues of common interest/concern and to deal with problems or difficulties which might have arisen within the local community/estate. Estate management can also play a significant role in the struggle against drugs through trying to ensure that drug dealers are evicted from houses within local estates, through checking out the backgrounds of people who have applied to be housed within local estates (so that there is no history/culture of drug dealing), through improving facilities and services within local areas (so that there are a range of positive alternatives to drug/alcohol misuse) and through sorting out spaces/locations within local estates where open drug dealing is known to take place. The 1997 Service Development Plan recommended that estate management initiatives be piloted in four areas within Tallaght: Fettercairn, Killinarden, Brookfield and Avonbeg/St. Dominics. The National Drugs Strategy Team decided to approve funding for two of these estate management initiatives - in Fettercairn and Killinarden. In assessing the work and achievements of the estate management initiatives in Fettercairn and Killinarden, the following outcomes and results have emerged:

- There is a sense that the Fettercairn and Killinarden areas have become safer and more secure places during the course of the last three year period. There is less open/overt drug activity, actions have been taken in relation to problem tenants, there have been improvements in the physical environment and infrastructure. Whilst the estate management offices in Fettercairn and Killinarden cannot claim sole credit for the improvements which have taken place, there is a feeling that they have made some contribution to improving the safety, security and quality of life of local people living within the Fettercairn and Killinarden communities. There is some concern, however, that the success of estate management initiatives In Fettercairn and

Killinarden have had a negative impact on the level and extent of drug dealing in other parts of Tallaght where there are no similar estate management projects - drug dealers have tended to gravitate towards other communities where there is less monitoring of suspected drug dealers and where there' is not the same level of co-ordination and communications between local community groups and relevant statutory agencies.

- New and improved relationships between community based groups/ organisations and statutory agencies have been developed through the estate management process. On occasions, they are working together to sort out particular problems and there is a growing sense that more can be achieved through this type of partnership, collective approach to problem solving than through a more adversarial, confrontational approach. It is anticipated that some of the more positive relationships which have been developed through the estate management initiatives will sustain themselves into the longer term future.
- *Creating greater understanding and communication between gardai and local residents.* An Garda Siochana is the central agency involved in trying to prevent the distribution and supply of drugs into local communities and housing estates within Tallaght. In order for the gardai to be effective in their work it is most important that they have the full support of residents living within local communities and that residents are willing to come forward with information or suspicions which they might have in relation to drug dealing within their own communities. It is also recognised, however, that there have been problems in relation to the ways in which gardai are perceived/viewed within individual communities and estates in Tallaght, and that there is a need to carry out work in improving the relationships between the gardai and local communities within certain areas of Tallaght. The Service Development Plan recommended the establishment of a small development fund which could be used to support initiatives or projects which would foster improved communication and mutual understanding between local communities and the gardai within Tallaght. The fund has provided financial assistance to a number of small scale events and activities eg. teacher/parent training for local schools, a gala concert for local primary schools and contributions towards the work of local youth groups.

In addition to supporting these types of local projects/events, it is also considered important that more direct strategies be developed to increase awareness and understanding of the role/function of the gardai and to break down feelings of mistrust, hostility and suspicion towards the gardai which might exist within some parts of Tallaght. In order to cut off the supply of drugs into local communities in Tallaght, it is critical that local people have respect for, and confidence in, the gardai. Without this respect and confidence, there is concern that information will not be passed on to the gardai and that there might not be as much co-operation at the local community level as might be expected. In this type of context the improvement in relationships and understanding between the gardai and local communities in Tallaght should remain a key policy objective for the TDTF and the relevant agencies/organisations represented on the TDTF. «

(vi) Summary of work and achievements

In considering the overall impact and effectiveness of the projects which have been supported through the TDTF it is useful to re-visit the targets/goals which were established in the 1997 Service Development Plan and to assess the extent to which these targets/goals have been achieved. These targets/goals and the relevant outcomes are as follows:

- The 1997 plan proposed *'the development of a network of local treatment centres with a wide range of services and the potential to provide up to 185 treatment places'*. In achieving this objective, a network of local treatment centres has been set up within Tallaght (in Fettercairn, Jobstown, Killinarden and the St. Aengus parish area). This network of treatment centres worked with 438 drug users between July 1997 and April 2000. Whilst a certain number of treatment centres have been set up in strategic locations within Tallaght there is still a need to give consideration to the establishment of additional treatment centres in places like Brookfield, Springfield and Kilnamanagh. There is also a need to consider diversifying the range of services being provided through the local treatment centres and to examine the potential of introducing new treatment options (in addition to methadone maintenance programmes).
- The 1997 plan proposed *'the introduction of a new and complementary rehabilitation project catering for up to 20 participants at any one time'*. In achieving this objective the TDTF has played a significant role in the development of the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project, a project which can provide rehabilitation places and services for up to 20 drug users from the Tallaght area. In addition to

providing funding for this initiative, members of the TDTF have also been intensively involved in setting up this project (the management committee of the project is largely comprised of members of the TDTF). Whilst it is too early to assess the impact and effectiveness of the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project (it only became operational in February 2000), there is a strong sense that there is an urgent need to increase the number of rehabilitation places and the range of rehabilitation options available to drug users in Tallaght - 20 places in one centre (with its own philosophy and approach/programme) is simply not enough. It is considered that rehabilitation should assume a higher priority in the formulation of the 2001-2004 Development Plan than it was in the 1997 Service Development Plan.

- The 1997 plan proposed *'the establishment of a number of community based education projects which will reach over 800 young people and parents'*. In achieving this objective, the drugs awareness and education projects supported by the TDTF have worked with 1748 children, young people and adults between July 1997 and April 2000. These projects have adopted innovative and imaginative strategies in educating and informing local people about the dangers and consequences of drug misuse/abuse. They have involved training local parents as facilitators and training local young people as peer educators. On the basis of the success and achievements of the drugs education projects funded between 1997 and 2000, it is both useful and necessary to consider ways in which the learning and the models of good practice which have been developed through these projects can be extended to other locations and communities within Tallaght.
- The 1997 plan proposed *'the introduction of specialised projects designed to respond to over 60 'at risk' young people in four different communities'*. In achieving this objective, projects supported through the TDTF focused specifically on vulnerable/'at risk' young people have worked with approximately 150 young people between July 1997 and April 2000. This work has taken place in three locations - Fettercairn, Jobstown and the St. Aengus parish area. Whilst the numbers participating in the various projects have been reasonably impressive, the intensity of the work has been disappointing and inadequate. It is considered that effective work with vulnerable/'at risk' young people needs to be intensive, sustained and ongoing. Unfortunately, for a number of projects assisted by the TDTF, the resources did not exist to provide this sustained and intensive service. In the future, more attention should be given to the long-term sustainability, quality

and effectiveness of individual projects and their capacity to work with vulnerable/ 'at risk' young people in an intensive way over a protracted period of time.

- The 1997 plan proposed *'the piloting of new and integrated responses to the problem of supply and dealing in four estates'*. In trying to achieve this objective, the TDTF supported two estate management initiatives in Tallaght - in the Fettercairn and Killinarden areas. These initiatives have been developed at the same time as other estate management projects/programmes that have been assisted by South Dublin County Council and the South Dublin URBAN Initiative. . The experience of the various estate management actions between 1997 and 2000 would suggest that they have some potential in improving relationships and co-operation between local residents/communities and relevant statutory agencies. In order for the process to reach its full potential it will require full commitment and participation from local communities and key statutory agencies. Without this commitment and co-operation the estate management process/approach is unlikely to work or to make any significant substantive difference to the level/quality 'of service provision (and overall quality of living conditions) within individual estates. The 1997 plan proposed *'support for two training courses which will improve the skills and expertise of over 35 local workers'*. In achieving this objective the community addiction courses funded through the TDTF and organised through the Institute of Technology Tallaght and The Shanty have involved the active participation of approximately 90 people. There is a need to build on the experience of these courses and, in particular, to develop more intensive, advanced, modular and accredited training programmes for local drugs workers in Tallaght who want to find out more about the drugs issue and who wish to enhance their own skills and knowledge. The provision of training and educational opportunities for community drugs workers should remain a key policy objective for the TDTF. The whole drugs issue keeps evolving and keeps changing with new problems and new solutions being presented on a regular and ongoing basis. In this type of context, it is most important that local drugs workers can update their skills and knowledge and link into other experiences and models of good practice which have been developed in other parts of Ireland and in other countries.
- The 1997 plan proposed *'the establishment of an innovative response to the needs of 'at risk' families'*. In trying to achieve this objective, the TDTF provided support to the Lorient project which has been piloted and developed through the Barnardos

organisation. The Lorien project has worked with 63 families (and approximately 150 family members) in the period from July 1997 to April 2000. The experiences of the Lorien project have clearly demonstrated the benefits of working with the families who are effected by drug misuse/abuse and not just the individual drug user - the lifestyle and behaviour of the drug misuser has an impact and an effect which extends to partners, children, parents and other family members. The main focus of the Lorien project is on families with young children and the provision of support to the children of the drug user and the carers/extended family members who have to assume some responsibility for these children (given the inability of the drug user, in some instances, to look after their own children). This type of work with the family unit is most important. The development of family support services for families of drug users should be prioritised to a greater extent in the 2001-2004 Development Plan of the TDTF. In addition to the Lorien/Barnardos focus on families with young children it will also be necessary to carry out work with other types of family units (where perhaps parents are unable to cope with the drug habit/lifestyle of their drug using son/daughter or where one drug using family member is causing havoc within an otherwise fairly stable/settled family).

5.3 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE TDTF, 1997 - 2000

It is considered useful to examine the role and functions of the TDTF between 1997 and 2000 from two different perspectives: (i) the support, advice and guidance which was provided to the funded projects and (ii) the broader roles and activities of the TDTF.

- (i) ***Support and advice to funded projects.*** The funded projects have been very satisfied with the quality of support and service provided by the TDTF. As part of the National Drugs Strategy Team review/evaluation exercise, projects were asked the following questions: what have been the project's main needs in relation to the TDTF? to what extent have these needs been met? In relation to the 14 projects reviewed/evaluated in Tallaght, 12 projects (86%) stated that their needs has been met to 'a great extent' by the TDTF whilst 2 projects (14%) stated that their needs had been met to 'some extent'. None of the projects in Tallaght felt that their needs had been met to a 'little or no extent' by the TDTF. In considering the particular contributions made by the TDTF to the funded projects, the following outcomes and conclusions emerged from the interviews with the various project workers:

- The Co-ordinator of the TDTF has made an important and useful contribution to the development of a number of drugs related projects in the Tallaght area - through his participation on the management committee of various projects, through his willingness to work through project options and possibilities, through his flexibility and openness when dealing with requests and queries from project promoters.
- The TDTF has created opportunities for project workers to network and to meet with each other. A number of project promoters made positive references to the Information Day which was organised by the TDTF - this provided a good and useful opportunity for project workers to find out more about the drugs projects and initiatives being supported by the TDTF. The TDTF has helped projects to access financial assistance from other funding sources eg. the TDTF played an important advocacy role in enabling St. Dominics Community Response to access £50,000 for its Street Work project from the South Dublin URBAN Initiative, The TDTF has been -willing to give its support/endorsement to funded projects when these projects have seeking assistance (financial and otherwise) from other agencies and organisations.
- The TDTF has served to provide recognition and credibility to the work of local drugs projects, A number of project promoters said that they were often treated with suspicion and some degree of hostility/resentment prior to receiving financial assistance through the TDTF - since they were working with drug users, there was a sense that they were involved in shady or dodgy activities. In this type of context, the support and endorsement of a government supported cross-agency organisation like the TDTF has been of considerable benefit in enhancing the profile, image and credibility of local drugs projects within the Tallaght area. The provision of funding through the TDTF has created opportunities for projects to build up and develop their work with drug users, families of drug users and children/young people in danger of getting involved in drug misuse/abuse. Many of these projects had been working on very limited resources prior to being allocated funding through the TDTF. The financial support from the TDTF has enabled projects to employ workers on reasonable salaries, to develop premises for the project activities, to

purchase training and resource materials, to pay for overheads and running costs. Through providing financial assistance between 1997 and 2000 and giving projects an opportunity to demonstrate the quality and effectiveness of their work, the TDTF has succeeded in moving these projects closer to the stage when they will be in a position to access sustained, ongoing funding from mainstream statutory organisations/ agencies..

(ii) ***Broader role and activities of the TDTF.*** In addition to the support which has been provided to the funded projects, the TDTF has also performed a number of other roles in relation to the drugs issue within the Tallaght area:

- It has created a forum and a mechanism through which representatives of statutory agencies, voluntary organisations and community based groups/projects can come together to discuss issues of common interest/concern. In the views of many interviewees the process of setting up and establishing the TDTF was a key element in creating a new momentum and a new dynamic in the fight against drugs within the Tallaght area. Through participation and involvement in the TDTF new and improved relationships have been formed between people from different organisations and this has led to organisations working together on projects and issues of common interest - there is a feeling that these types of positive developments and outcomes might not have taken place if the TDTF had not provided the type of context within which people could meet and share information, experiences, views, opinions, plans/proposals. Participation on the TDTF has also enabled members of the Task Force to gain a greater understanding and awareness of the challenges and difficulties being experienced by colleagues working within the different sectors - the statutory sector, the voluntary sector and the community sector.
- It has helped to ensure that the drugs issues has been integrated and factored into the work and operations of organisations and initiatives like the South Dublin URBAN Initiative, the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund and the Tallaght Partnership. Earlier reference has been made to the Street Work project sponsored by St. Dominics Community Response. This project was funded through the South Dublin URBAN Initiative - URBAN has also funded other projects which are targeted at vulnerable/'at risk' young people who are in danger of becoming involved in drugs and other

anti-social activities. In relation to the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund, two members of the TDTF played a key role in the Development Group which formulated the plan for this particular fund - a number of the projects which are being supported through the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund are aimed at vulnerable young people within the Tallaght area and are focused on activities/actions which present positive alternatives to involvement in drugs and other types of destructive and anti-social behaviour. The Tallaght Partnership played a prominent role in setting up the TDTF, and the work of the TDTF has continued to inform the work of the Tallaght Partnership in relation to the drugs issue - on the basis of the work and analyses of the TDTF it is likely that effective responses to the drugs problem will be a priority issue within the 2000-2006 Area Action Plan of the Tallaght Partnership. Therefore, it is evident that the activities-carried out by the TDTF have influenced the work of other organisations in Tallaght which are aiming to tackle poverty, social exclusion, deprivation and marginalisation within the Tallaght area.

In summary, the TDTF has made a significant contribution both to the development of the individual projects and in heightening awareness and understanding about the drugs problem/issue in Tallaght. The individual members of the TDTF, and in particular the chairpersons and co-ordinator of the TDTF, have invested a substantial amount of time, energy and expertise in the positive developments which have taken place between 1997 and 2000 - the work carried out by the funded projects', the networking opportunities which have been created, the enhanced relationships between various agencies, organisations and community groups, the improvements which have taken place within individual communities in Tallaght, the growing sense of solidarity and common purpose which has emerged in relation to the drugs issue. Therefore, a number of positive outcomes have emerged between 1997 and 2000. The challenge for the TDTF is to build upon and consolidate these achievements. There is still a significant and serious drugs problem in Tallaght and the TDTF will need to continue to develop effective and imaginative responses to the needs of drug users, the families of drug users and young people who are in danger of becoming involved in drugs. This is likely to involve a more pro-active and strategic approach with the TDTF actively setting up projects and initiatives (where there are outstanding and unmet gaps in provision) and strategically determining the ways in which the drugs crisis/problem might be tackled in the most effective manner (with

individual agencies and organisations assuming a greater degree of responsibility for progressing actions and initiatives relating to the drugs issue/problem in Tallaght). The TDTF should not merely be the dispenser of funds provided through the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion - rather the TDTF should also influence and monitor the drugs related work of key statutory agencies, voluntary organisations and community groups within the Tallaght area.

6. 2000 - 2002 DEVELOPMENT PLAN - FUTURE DIRECTION, PRIORITIES AND FOCUSES

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the discussion document will consider the future direction, priorities and focuses of the TDTF, especially in the context of the production of the 2001-2004 Development Plan for the TDTF. These issues will be considered under the following headings:

- **Guiding principles for the TDTF and for the formulation of the 2001-2004 Development Plan.**
- **Primary roles and functions for the TDTF.**
- **Key focuses and priority areas for the TDTF, 2001-2004.**

6.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles which will inform the ongoing work and development of the TDTF are as follows:

- **The TDTF recognises that there is still a very serious and disturbing level of drug misuse/abuse within the Tallaght area.**
- **The TDTF believes that the causes of drug misuse/abuse are directly linked to socio-economic disadvantage, social exclusion, poverty, marginalisation and the lack of appropriate/adequate community facilities and services.**
- **The TDTF recognises the complexity and diversity of the drugs problem, and the need to develop a number of different approaches and strategies when dealing with the needs of drug users, the families of drug users, young people in danger of becoming involved in drugs and local communities within the Tallaght area.**
- **The TDTF considers that the drugs problem needs to be addressed in an integrated and co-ordinated manner with relevant agencies, communities and organisations working together in the best interests of drug users, the families of drug users, young people in danger of becoming involved in drugs and local communities within the Tallaght area.**
- **The TDTF believes that drug users should be treated with decency, understanding and empathy; and should be dealt with in a respectful and proper manner.**

- **The TDTF recognises the need to adopt an inclusive approach when dealing with the needs and circumstances of drug users - in addition to working directly with the drug user it is also important to work with other people who are effected by the drug habit/lifestyle of the drug user (eg. children, parents, siblings, local residents within the Tallaght area).**
- **The TDTF believes that every drug user should be presented with treatment and rehabilitation options and that these options should be made available as soon as the drug user feels that he/she is ready to begin a treatment/ rehabilitation programme.**
- **The TDTF considers that a significant amount can be learnt from relevant national and international experiences and will seek to explore the transferability of these experiences into the Tallaght context.**
- **The TDTF recognises the need to adopt a holistic and person centred approach towards the needs and circumstances of drug users within the Tallaght area, with personal treatment and rehabilitation plans/programmes being formulated for individual drug users.**
- **The TDTF advocates the integration of drug users into the communities in which they live.**
- **The TDTF believes in the ultimate objective of drug users developing a drug free lifestyle. In achieving this objective it will generally be necessary for drug users to be provided with the opportunities to participate in stabilisation/ maintenance programmes which will lessen their dependency on illegal drugs/opiates.**
- **The TDTF considers that the provision of local treatment and rehabilitation services is an essential element in the overall drugs strategy and that local treatment centres/facilities should generally be reserved for local people living within the immediate catchment areas of these local centres/facilities. It is also recognised that rehabilitation projects and initiatives might need to be organised on a Tallaght wide basis.**
- **The TDTF believes that a range of different agencies and organisations have a role and responsibility in relation to the drugs issue. These agencies should be encouraged and supported to produce their own plans in relation to ways in which they will contribute to tackling the drugs problem within the Tallaght area.**

- **The TDTF is committed to developing the capacity and skills of local residents and groups within individual communities/estates to play a more active role in drugs related projects/initiatives within the Tallaght area.**

The guiding principles which will inform the production of the 2001-2004 Development Plan for the TDTF are as follows:

- **The plan should be strategic and visionary, incorporating a drugs strategy for Tallaght over the next three year period. It should not merely detail the projects/initiatives which might be funded directly through the TDTF but it should also incorporate programmes, actions and interventions to be delivered/funded by relevant statutory agencies and voluntary organisations. These agencies and organisations should be required to produce their own plans and proposals to respond to the drugs issue/crisis in Tallaght. ,**
- **The plan should seek to address all aspects of the drugs issue/problem within Tallaght - drugs education, drugs prevention, drug treatment, drug rehabilitation, reducing the supply of drugs, and the skills enhancement of local drugs workers and other local residents.**
- **The plan should aim to build upon the experiences and achievements of the last three year period through continuing to provide support and encouragement to projects/initiatives which have been successful/effective and through learning from the experiences of projects/initiatives which did not have the desired impact.**
- **The plan should be organic and evolving,*with space being created for the TDTF to respond imaginatively to new challenges which might be presented between 2000 and 2002 and to adopt new approaches/strategies that might have been tried and tested in other places. The plan should not restrict or constrain opportunities for future development. In this context, the TDTF should establish a Development Fund which would support new projects and initiatives which emerge between 2001 and 2004. In addition, the National Drugs Strategy Team will be encouraged to provide funding for significant new projects which are developed during the lifespan of the new Development Plan (between 2001 and 2004).**
- **The plan should have a Tallaght wide focus. Whilst it will be necessary to concentrate particular attention and resources on those communities which have been hit hardest by the drugs problem, it is also important to ensure that**

the strategies and approaches promoted by the TDTF are inclusive of, and accessible to, all individuals and communities who have been effected by the drugs issue/ problem.

6.3 ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE TDTF

The TDTF will develop and expand its role and functions over the next three year period. In more particular terms, the TDTF will:

- *Seek to influence the policies, programmes, priorities and budgets of key statutory agencies which are involved in tackling drug misuse/abuse.* In addition to monitoring the expenditure of monies which have been approved directly through the TDTF and the National Drugs Strategy Team, the TDTF will also influence the spending decisions, policies and priorities of statutory agencies involved in drugs education, drugs prevention, drug treatment, drug rehabilitation, reducing the supply of drugs and the training of local drugs workers. It is anticipated that the National Drugs Strategy Team will be a key mechanism for influencing the work and ongoing activities of key statutory agencies and organisations.
- *Monitor the extent to which the proposals, recommendations and actions contained in the 2001-2004 Development Plan of the TDTF are being progressed and implemented in an effective and satisfactory manner.* Some of these proposals will relate to actions which are being developed/funded directly through the TDTF whilst the implementation of other proposals will be the responsibility of relevant statutory agencies and voluntary organisations. The TDTF will have a review role in relation to the implementation of *all* proposals and actions contained within the 2001-2004 Development Plan.
- *Lobby and campaign on issues of interest or concern to the TDTF and to the various agencies, organisations and groups represented on the TDTF.* The TDTF will assume a stronger policy development function and contribute more to discussions and debates which are taking place about the drugs problem at the local and national level and about issues which are contributory factors within the overall drugs situation eg. educational disadvantage, poverty, social exclusion, poor infrastructure of community services and facilities in some parts of Tallaght. The TDTF will play a more active role in campaigning for positive change in relation to issues which negatively impact upon the quality of life for local residents and which make it more likely that they will become involved in drugs and other anti-social

activity. This campaigning role might be undertaken directly by the TDTF or it might be organised in conjunction with other relevant groups in Tallaght and elsewhere - the nature of the issue will determine the most appropriate lobbying/campaigning strategy.

- *Develop closer linkages with other relevant initiatives which are taking place within the Tallaght area.* Interviewees contacted during this process of producing the 2001-2004 Development Plan for the TDTF mentioned the Integrated Services Project in Jobstown, the Strategic Policy Committees of South Dublin County Council and the Youth Diversion Programme of the Department of Justice as examples of the types of initiatives which are relevant to the work of the TDTF and on which the TDTF should be seeking some kind of representation or influence. The TDTF will strive to become a more integral part of the socio-economic and local development landscape within the Tallaght area.
- *Carrying out quantitative and qualitative research on the nature and extent of drug misuse/abuse within Tallaght, on the causes of drug misuse/abuse, on the -consequences of drug misuse/abuse, on the impact of drug misuse/abuse on families and communities within Tallaght and on other issues which are relevant to the overall work and objectives of the TDTF.* There is some concern that not enough top quality research into the drugs issue has been carried out in the Tallaght area and that policy responses to the drugs problem are often based on feelings, perceptions and anecdotal evidence rather than on solid pieces of research and analysis. In order to ensure that the future policy responses are appropriate and relevant and that they are providing a meaningful response to the needs of drug users and potential drug users it is important that effective research is carried out both at the quantitative (i.e. numerical) level and the qualitative (i.e. listening to the real life experiences of drug users, young people and other groups) level. The TDTF will allocate a certain amount of its budget for research which would be commissioned into various aspects of the drugs problem/crisis within Tallaght.
- *Provide networking opportunities for people involved in drugs projects within the Tallaght area.* A number of interviewees felt that it would be useful, interesting and beneficial to link up with other people who are working on projects in the areas of drugs education, dmg prevention, drug treatment, drug rehabilitation and reducing the supply of drugs. There was a sense that people could learn a lot from each other (about different programmes, strategies and approaches) and that a regular forum of

drugs workers in Tallaght would be a useful opportunity to discuss issues of common interest/concern, to find out more about different aspects of the drugs issue and to give/receive mutual support.

In addition to organising these meetings of local drugs workers in Tallaght, the TDTF will also seek to disseminate and share drugs related information to local groups and projects within Tallaght. The TDTF is particularly well positioned to link into other national and international experiences in the drugs area. It is considered that there is a lot that can be learnt from strategies and initiatives that have been developed in other parts of Ireland and in other countries. The TDTF will aim to make this information available to local groups and projects in Tallaght on a regular and ongoing basis (perhaps through the proposed forum/network of local drugs workers). There is also a significant amount that other areas can learn from the experiences of innovative initiatives and projects which have been developed within Tallaght. The TDTF and the individual projects will aim to share these experiences with other practitioners and policy makers who are involved in drugs related work in Ireland and in other countries.

- *Pro-actively develop initiatives and projects where there are outstanding and unmet gaps in provision and services.* Earlier reference has been made to the way in which the TDTF played a very direct, lead role in the establishment of the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project - members of the TDTF had identified a clear unmet need (although some rehabilitation work has been undertaken by the local treatment centres), there was no appropriate agency/organisation in Tallaght to deliver this type of rehabilitation project, the TDTF took on direct responsibility for setting up and establishing the project. The TDTF will continue to assume this pro-active role and be prepared to set up its own projects around issues and priority work areas where there is no suitable delivery agency/organisation. Interviewees consulted during the process of producing this discussion document mentioned a Tallaght wide drugs education/awareness programme (aimed particularly at schools) and a Tallaght Rehabilitation Services initiative as two examples of projects which could be developed directly through the TDTF. Whilst it is accepted that the TDTF would ideally like to work through existing groups and organisations in Tallaght, it is also recognised that the TDTF will need to be more pro-active around some issues (where there is a definite gap in provision and no appropriate delivery agency/organisation).

- Focus particular attention on geographical areas where there is an identifiable drugs problem but there is no local drugs support/treatment group to provide assistance and guidance to drug users and information and education to potential drug users (about the dangers and consequences of drug misuse/abuse). Reference has been made to Brookfield, Springfield and Ballycragh as three areas where there is a need for an effective drugs support/treatment project. In the absence of local drugs groups emerging in these types of communities, there is a responsibility and an onus on the TDTF to play an active role in helping to set up local structures which might provide a meaningful local response to the drugs situation within areas like Brookfield, Springfield and Kilnamanagh. This is likely to involve the TDTF engaging in local consultations, trying to establish a group of concerned/interested residents and providing ongoing advice/support to this group as it develops its plans and ideas. In general terms, the TDTF will prioritise the issue of capacity building and seek to ensure that local groups have the strength, confidence, skills and knowledge to develop drugs projects/initiatives within their own areas.*
- Provide technical support to drugs projects/initiatives on matters where particular and specific advice/guidance might be requested. A number of the project leaders/co-ordinators who were interviewed during the process of producing this discussion document felt that the provision of technical assistance and support through the TDTF would be very useful and valuable. The areas of financial management/control, evaluation/monitoring, report writing, development planning, the preparation of funding submissions /applications and the development of employment procedures/systems were mentioned as examples of the type of technical expertise which might be made available through the TDTF. The TDTF will consider employing a small team of development workers (either on a full-time or contract basis) - these workers would have primary responsibility for providing support and technical advice/assistance to drugs projects within the Tallaght area (around the types of issues mentioned earlier in this paragraph). The TDTF will also give consideration to the organisation of training courses and programmes which would seek to enhance the skills and competency of local project/drugs workers on matters concerning financial management/control, evaluation, production of development plans, preparing funding submissions, report writing, good employment practices etc.*

- Monitor the progress of the projects and initiatives being supported directly by the TDTF* (through the £15 million allocation from the Cabinet Committee on Social Exclusion to the 13 Drugs Task Forces). There is some concern that adequate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms were not put in place for the projects which received financial assistance between 1997 and 2000. In order to rectify this situation, funded projects will submit regular financial reports and progress reports to the TDTF, and the TDTF will determine whether the information contained in the financial/progress reports corresponds with the original funding decision (and the purposes on which funds were to be expended). This monitoring role will be delegated to a monitoring sub-committee of the TDTF, with final decisions on funding issues to be made by the full management committee of the TDTF. On account of the public money involved, it is considered most important that there are effective mechanisms for ensuring that monies are being expended in a satisfactory and appropriate manner. It is anticipated that the proposed technical support staff to be employed by the TDTF will assist local projects to prepare their financial records/accounts.
- Publicise the work of the TDTF and the work of the various drug related projects being supported by the TDTF and other agencies/organisations within the Tallaght area.* There was a feeling that the Information Day organised by the TDTF in the South Dublin County Council offices had served to highlight the quality and the diversity of the drugs projects where are being developed in the Tallaght area. The success of this Information Day will be built upon and additional opportunities created for publicising and promoting the TDTF and the work of the individual projects. The national media, the local media, production of regular newsletters by the TDTF, the organisation of further Information Days and the organisation of public meetings in locations within Tallaght are public relations and publicity options to be progressed by the TDTF. The work of the projects being supported through the TDTF can act as a morale booster for local communities in Tallaght and can help to balance a lot of the more negative publicity which is generated about the drugs problem. In this type of context it is considered important that an organisation like the TDTF takes on responsibility for co-ordinating the production of publicity materials and for trying to ensure that the positive work being carried out by local groups is highlighted in an appropriate and effective way.

It is recognised that a number of these proposed roles/functions will have resource implications for the TDTF eg. the establishment of a technical support unit, the employment of a researcher, information officer and/or policy analyst. In the short to medium term, the TDTF will employ a Development Worker with responsibility for progressing the policy development work and activities of the TDTF. In addition, the TDTF will seek support from the Department of Education/County Dublin VEC to employ a Drugs Education Co-ordinator for the Tallaght area. In the longer term it might be necessary to employ additional specialist workers (on a full-time or contract basis).

A final point in relation to the ongoing development of the TDTF concerns the issue of location. There was a strong view expressed by a number of interviewees that the offices of the TDTF should be based in the Tallaght area, not in Cherry Orchard Hospital. In order to effectively implement a number of the actions/proposals suggested in this section of the discussion document (eg. employment of development workers, setting up forums/networks of drugs workers/projects, organising training events and initiatives, carrying out local research), it will be both necessary and desirable for the TDTF to relocate its office/base to the Tallaght area.

6.4 PRIORITY WORK AREAS

The TDTF will prioritise its work around the following five work areas: drugs education and prevention, drug treatment, drug rehabilitation, reducing the supply of drugs and the skills development of local drugs workers. Costings for the strategies, actions and projects detailed in this section of the Service Development Plan are detailed in the next section of this report.

(i) Drugs Education and Prevention

The TDTF believes in the fundamental importance of drugs education and prevention as a means of discouraging and dissuading young people from becoming actively involved in drug taking at a relatively young age. In relation to drugs education it is the objective of the TDTF that as many young people as possible in Tallaght should be informed and educated about the dangers and consequences of drug misuse/abuse - this information should be communicated to all young people in Tallaght, and not only young people living in areas which have been most severely effected by the drugs crisis. In addition to young people it is also important that adults are educated about the drugs issue and the most appropriate ways to deal with drug users within their families and within their communities. In relation to the issue of drugs prevention there is an urgent need to ensure

that facilities and programmes are put in place which will provide positive alternatives and developmental options for young people, and will lessen the likelihood of young people succumbing to the temptations of drugs and other addictive substances.

The following drugs education and prevention actions and strategies will be developed between 2001 and 2004:

- The drugs education and prevention projects supported by the TDTF between 1997 and 2000 should receive ongoing mainstream funding. St. Dominics Community Response, the Tallaght Youth Service Peer Education Programme, the Killinarden Drug Primary Prevention Group, the STAY (St. Aengus Youth) project and the Jobstown Community College project have all carried out important and effective work with children and young people in the Tallaght area. It is anticipated that these projects will be mainstreamed through funding provided by the Department of Education/County Dublin Vocational Education Committee.
- A Tallaght wide drugs education programme (Tallaght Drugs Education Initiative) will be introduced into all primary schools and second level schools in the Tallaght' area. This programme will build upon the work of the projects which received funding from the TDTF between 1997 and 2000 and on the Substance Abuse Programme (SAP) which is currently operating within a limited number of schools in Tallaght. The proposed drugs education programme would aim to incorporate a number of the more impressive elements of the projects which have developed between 1997 and 2000 i.e. the concept of peer education (with young people educating other young people about the drugs issue) and the training of local residents as facilitators in drugs education and drugs awareness activities.
- A Drugs Education Co-ordinator will be employed to develop the proposed Tallaght Drugs Education Initiative. This co-ordinator would also have some responsibility for drawing together the various drugs education projects and initiatives which are taking place in the Tallaght area, and for determining the projects/initiatives which have transferable potential to other locations. The Drugs Education Co-ordinator will also play a role in developing drugs training and education courses/programmes for teachers and other educators within the Tallaght area. The TDTF will approach the Department of Education/County Dublin VEC in order to seek approval for the release/secondment of a teacher for the position of Drugs Education Co-ordinator.

- The Boards of Management and principals within schools in Tallaght will be encouraged to prioritise the incorporation of drugs education modules and activities into the curriculum of primary schools and second level schools and to develop a drugs policy for their schools. The current commitment of schools towards drugs education (and the implementation of the Substance Abuse Programme) is largely dependent on the dedication and interest of individual teachers. There is a need to move beyond this over reliance on particular teachers and to mainstream drugs education within the curriculum of all schools in the Tallaght area. This type of positive development will require the active support and commitment of the various Boards of Management and principals of schools within Tallaght.
- Support for projects and activities which aim to enhance the self esteem, self confidence and self belief of vulnerable/'at risk' children and young people within the Tallaght area. There is a reasonable amount of evidence to suggest that young people who abuse drugs and are involved in other addictive behaviour have a relatively low self image and do not feel confident about themselves or their ability to relate to other young people and adults. The TDTF will encourage relevant statutory agencies to provide financial assistance to projects and programmes which are working with vulnerable/'at risk' young people who are in danger of leaving school early, who have behavioural problems and/or who are most likely to become involved in drug taking and other anti-social activities. There is also a need to assess the effectiveness of personal development and self esteem projects/initiatives, and to determine the extent to which they prevent or inhibit young people from becoming involved in drug misuse/abuse.
- Special educational initiatives being developed through the Department of Education (eg. Early Start, Breaking the Cycle, 8-15 year old Stay in School initiative) should be extended to every school in Tallaght which is situated in areas where there is a drugs problem and where a reasonably high proportion of the students attending these schools are in danger of becoming involved in drug misuse/abuse. It is considered that the aforementioned special initiatives of the Department of Education can play a significant role in retaining young people at school and preventing them from becoming too heavily involved in drug misuse/abuse.
- A programme aimed at introducing a more intensive and wide-ranging health education and drugs education component into the work of youth groups and youth

organisations which are operating within the Tallaght area. Whilst it is recognised that some good and useful drugs education work has taken place within individual youth groups/clubs in Tallaght, it is now necessary to ensure that a drugs awareness component/module forms an essential element within the youth service curriculum in all youth groups, clubs and organisations in Tallaght.

- The development of additional facilities within which children and young people can participate in creative and positive programmes of activity. It is evident that there is a dearth of facilities and programmes for children and young people in many parts of Tallaght and that the absence of these facilities/programmes makes it more likely that young people will be drawn to other more dangerous and destructive activities which are taking place within their own communities eg. alcohol abuse, drug taking, car stealing, vandalism. Hence the need to develop alternative options' and facilities for young people. It is anticipated that South Dublin County Council, the Department of Education, the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation and the Young Peoples Facilities and Services Fund will play a lead role in the further development of youth facilities/buildings within the Tallaght area.
- Adults will also be presented with opportunities to become more educated and more informed about the drugs issue. There are a number of projects supported by the TDTF between 1997 and 2000 which have provided drugs awareness education to parents of drug users and to other residents within individual communities in Tallaght. The experiences of these projects will be consolidated and built upon, with a view to increasing the number of adults within the Tallaght area who have an awareness and understanding of the drugs issue.
- A drugs education/awareness promotional and advertising campaign will be launched within the Tallaght area. There is concern that children, young people and adults are still not fully aware of the real dangers and consequences of drug misuse/abuse. The proposed promotional campaign could be organised as part of a national drugs awareness strategy or it could take place specifically in the Tallaght area. The campaign should be intensive, sustained, visual, explicit and hard hitting and should leave the target audience in no doubt about the ways that drug misuse/abuse can have a seriously detrimental effect on the individual drug user and the family of the drug user. The campaign is likely to be a cross-agency initiative involving the TDTF, the South Western Area Health Board, the Department of

Education, local schools, youth groups/organisations and drugs projects which are operating within the Tallaght area.

- The Department of Education/County Dublin VEC should take up its place as a member of the TDTF. The lack of a representative from the formal education sector on the TDTF is unfortunate and disappointing, given the major role which schools can play in the areas of drugs education and drug prevention. Representation will be made at the highest levels so as to ensure that the Department of Education/County Dublin VEC take up its membership of the TDTF (with the nominated representative being a person of appropriate seniority within his/her employing organisation).

(ii) Drug Treatment and Support for Drug Users

It is estimated that there are approximately 1020 opiate/heroin users in Tallaght, of whom 340 are participating in treatment programme and 680 have not linked into treatment programmes. The two key challenges for the TDTF and other relevant agencies involved in the area of drug treatment are (i) to encourage more drug users to participate in treatment and rehabilitation programmes and (ii) to diversify the range of treatment options available to drug users, beyond methadone maintenance programmes. In relation to the issue of encouraging more drug users to avail of treatment services it is important that the type of service/treatment being provided is appropriate to their own particular needs and circumstances, and that the treatment places can be provided at immediate notice (i.e. no waiting lists). In relation to the diversification of treatment services there is a view that there has been an over concentration on methadone maintenance and that more creative and imaginative treatment options need to be developed for drug users within the Tallaght area.

The following treatment/support actions and strategies will be developed between 2001 and 2004:

- A number of the drug treatment projects supported by the TDTF between 1997 and 2000 should receive ongoing mainstream funding. Killinarden Community Addiction Response Programme, St. Aengus Community Action Group, Jobstown Assisting Drug Dependency and Fettercaim Drug Rehabilitation Programme have all carried out important and effective work with drug users in individual communities within Tallaght. It is anticipated that these projects will be mainstreamed through funding provided by the South Western Area Health Board. It is also considered important to ensure that the work being carried out by the drug treatment projects takes place in premises which are comfortable, well-equipped

and spacious (within which a number of different activities and programmes can take place) - in the absence of such premises, it is recommended that they be provided as soon as possible.

- Appropriate responses to the drugs issue will be developed in Brookfield, Springfield and Kilnamanagh. There are a relatively large number of drug users in each of these three areas and it is considered to be both appropriate and necessary to set up local drugs projects in suitable locations within these three areas. The TDTF, together with the South Western Area Health Board, will play a key role in carrying out local consultations, responding to the fears/concerns of local residents, helping to set up local project/steering groups and providing ongoing advice and support to these groups as they endeavour to establish local drugs projects in Brookfield, Springfield and Kilnamanagh.
- The establishment of a Central Addiction Centre for the Tallaght area will be a key objective for the next three year period. There is strong consensus about the need for this type of facility, a facility which will provide a range of assessment, treatment and support services to drug users and their families within the Tallaght area. The emergence of this central facility/unit will complement the work of the local treatment centres and will enable these centres to provide a more wide-ranging and comprehensive range of services to clients who are accessing the local centres. The development of the Central Addiction Centre will be the primary responsibility of the South Western Area Health Board. It is considered to be both important and necessary for the South Western Area Health Board to consult with local community interests in Tallaght in relation to the ongoing development and evolution of the Central Addiction Centre (and ways in which this centre might interact most effectively with local drugs projects within the Tallaght area).
- There is a need to consider new treatment options for drug users within the Tallaght area. The TDTF will engage in a process of examining and analysing treatment programmes that have been developed in other parts of Ireland and in other countries. This is likely to involve carrying out research into good models of treatment practices that have been tried and tested in other locations and organising study units to relevant treatment projects in Ireland and elsewhere - it is anticipated that this type of research work might be carried out in conjunction with the National Advisory Committee on Drugs which has recently been established by the government. Funding will be allocated for research activities/projects within the

2001-2004 Development Plan of the TDTF and funding will also be reserved for incorporating the outcomes from this research into the implementation of appropriate pilot projects within the Tallaght area. In more immediate terms, a number of interviewees felt that a needle exchange programme should be set up in Tallaght and provision made for the needs of drug users who are engaged in full-time employment, education and training (and who are not able to attend the local treatment centres within the normal opening hours). The need for greater diversity of treatment options is in accordance with the guidelines produced by the National Drugs Strategy Team, *'the overall aim (of treatment services) should be to ensure that the diverse needs of different drug misusers are fully catered for in terms of the type of treatment provided, the settings in which it is delivered and providing the other back-up and supports needed by the client'*.

- Treatment facilities and services will be developed for young drug users between the ages of 16 and 19. There is increasing concern about the number of young drug users in the Tallaght area and a view that their needs and requirements are different from older people who have been using drugs for a fairly lengthy period of time. There is a sense that it is inappropriate and unwise for the younger category of drug users to be participating in treatment programmes alongside longer established drug users and that this process of integration might not be in the best interests of young drug users. Interviewees consulted during the process of producing the 2001-2004 Development Plan made particular reference to the need for a service for young heroin smokers and fast track detoxification for these young people - it was felt that this service needs to be delivered separately from current clinic provision in order to prevent younger users from becoming more enmeshed in problem drug use. References were also made to the need for a teenage counselling service for young drug users within the Tallaght area. It is suggested that a specific programme be developed which would cater exclusively for young drug users. This programme, which is likely to have both a treatment and prevention aspect (i.e. preventing young heroin smokers from progressing onto injecting heroin), could be developed by the TDTF and relevant statutory agencies and voluntary organisations within the Tallaght area. Active consideration will also be given to mainstreaming the Street Work project which has been developed by St. Dominies Community Response.
- Family support services will be further developed and expanded during the course of the next three year period. The Lorien project which is being developed by

Bamardos and which received support from the TDTF between 1997 and 2000 has clearly demonstrated the importance of working with the families of drug users (partners, parents, children) in addition to working directly with the drug user . him/herself. It is anticipated that the Lorien project will be mainstreamed through funding provided by the South Western Area Health Board. The experience of the Lorien project would suggest that the strategy of working with the drug user, his/her child(ren) and the carers of the child(ren) in an integrated manner is both effective and necessary. Therefore, in addition to providing mainstream funding to the Lorien project, other family support initiatives should also be supported through the 2001-2004 Development Plan. Whilst the main focus of the Lorien project is on drug users with young children, it is considered that there are also other types of family units (eg. unattached drug users living with their parents) which could benefit from an effective family support service.

- There is a need to develop additional services within Tallaght for drug users who have participated in detoxification and/or residential programmes. It is important that these drug users are provided with the appropriate support, encouragement and guidance when they return to their own communities in Tallaght. This type of service for 'returning' drug users could be developed in conjunction with the local treatment centres and relevant statutory agencies which are operational within the Tallaght area.
- There is a need to develop new strategies and approaches for offenders/prisoners who reside within the Tallaght area. In view of the very strong links between drug abuse and crime, specific attention needs to be given to targeting, confronting and changing offending patterns of behaviour in tandem with drug treatment and rehabilitation. Offending Behaviour Modules like those delivered by the West Tallaght Probation Project (Deonach and Target) might provide a useful model or be further developed.

In relation to offenders being released from prison, attention needs to be focused on the management of prisoner release so that support, supervision and ongoing access to treatment services is put in place. Current practice means that prisoners are released back into their communities without any of the foregoing and as a result are at high risk of drifting quickly back into drug abuse and crime. An integrated response would involve the Probation and Welfare Service; prison authorities; the South Western Area Health Board; and local drug treatment

centres. This integrated response to the needs and circumstances of offenders/prisoners will be supported by the TDTF and by other relevant agencies and organisations.

- Residential facilities and places will be developed for drug users who are participating on treatment programmes. For some drug users, it is both important and necessary to spend some time away from their immediate community in Tallaght and to have the space to fully participate in treatment programmes without the temptations and the influences which might inhibit their chances of successfully completing their particular programme of treatment. The TDTF will explore the current range of residential facilities which are available to drug users from the Tallaght area and aim to determine whether additional residential places/facilities need to be created. If there is a need to increase the range and scope of residential services for drug users these will be developed in conjunction with relevant statutory agencies eg. South Western Area Health Board.
- New co-ordinating arrangements will be established between organisations and individuals who are involved in the provision of treatment services to drug users within the Tallaght area - the South Western Area Health Board, the local treatment centres, general practitioners, pharmacists. There is a strong sense that there are significant gaps in service co-ordination and information sharing between the various providers, and that there is a need for a more co-ordinated and cohesive approach in relation to issues like waiting lists, the methadone protocol, the prescribing of Benzos, the development of new services and progression routes for drug users. There is a particular need to engage the more active and committed participation of pharmacists and general practitioners. In order to provide a more integrated and co-ordinated delivery of services a Treatment Providers Forum will be established - the purpose of this forum, which would meet on perhaps a three monthly basis, would be to share information and to address issues which are of concern to the various providers of treatment services within the Tallaght area.

(iii) Rehabilitation and Integration Services

Earlier references have been made to the relative dearth of drug rehabilitation and integration services within the Tallaght area. The Tallaght Rehabilitation Project, which was established in February 2000 and caters for 15-20 drug users, is the only dedicated rehabilitation facility within Tallaght (although the local treatment centres also have a rehabilitation aspect to their work). The development of additional rehabilitation

options/places is considered to be a most important policy objective over the next three year period. Rehabilitation and integration should form an essential element within the overall treatment and rehabilitation process - treatment programmes by themselves, in the absence of effective rehabilitation supports and options, are unlikely to produce the desired impact of re-integrating many drug users into employment, training, education and into the mainstream of community life. Whilst some of the treatment centres are involved in rehabilitation and integration work, it is also considered necessary to develop projects which are exclusively focused on rehabilitation and where the rehabilitation activities take place in a different location to the treatment activities. The nature of the rehabilitation and integration services to be provided will differ from client to client. Therefore, it is necessary to devise a flexible and person centred range of rehabilitation and integration options which will enable the client, together with the relevant support/project worker, to devise a rehabilitation and integration plan which is appropriate to his/her needs and circumstances.

The following drug rehabilitation and integration actions **and** strategies will be developed between 2001 and 2004:

- The Tallaght Rehabilitation Project should receive ongoing mainstream funding. Whilst this project has only been operational since February 2000, it has developed a rehabilitation model which is likely to be of benefit to a number of drug users within the Tallaght area. It is anticipated that the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project will be mainstreamed through funding provided by FAS and the South Western Area Health Board.
- The role and function of the local treatment centres in the provision of rehabilitation services and supports will be explored. It is evident that these centres have provided a certain level of rehabilitation to their clients and have assisted these clients to access employment, training courses and educational programmes. In addition, the local treatment centres have also played an important role in the integration of drug users into the communities in which they live and in setting up local support structures for active and recovering drug users. In this type of context there is a need to examine the future roles of the local treatment centres in relation to drugs rehabilitation and integration, and to identify the most appropriate ways in which the local treatment centres might complement the work of projects and initiatives which are specifically focused on the rehabilitation and integration needs of drug users within the Tallaght area.

- A Tallaght Rehabilitation Services Initiative (to provide assessment, guidance and referral services to drug users) will be set up by the TDTF and other relevant agencies/organisations. The purpose of this initiative would be to work with drug users on their rehabilitation and integration needs and requirements, to formulate a rehabilitation plan for each client and to negotiate the implementation of this plan with appropriate employers, training agencies, educational institutions and rehabilitation projects like the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project. The initiative would aim to move and progress clients along a continuum which would hopefully result in the client securing the type of employment, training or educational position which is appropriate to his/her needs and requirements. This type of initiative would require the active goodwill and support of a wide range of companies, organisations and agencies who would be prepared to provide developmental opportunities to recovering drug users.
- The number of places on dedicated rehabilitation projects will be increased from 15-20 (the existing provision within the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project) to 48-60 - this new figure is based on an assessment of the number of drug users in Tallaght who could benefit from participation on a specialist rehabilitation programme. On the basis of an optimum figure of 15-20 people per rehabilitation unit/facility, this will require the establishment of an additional two rehabilitation projects in Tallaght. These are likely to be strategically located within the Tallaght area - since the Tallaght Rehabilitation Project is based in Jobstown, one of the other proposed rehabilitation projects might also be located in west Tallaght with the third project being sited in another part of Tallaght (one for recovering drug users and one for active drug users).
- Work will take place with public sector and private sector employers, training agencies and educational institutions in relation to the rehabilitation needs and requirements of drug users within the Tallaght area. It is considered important that companies, organisations and agencies which might be in a position to provide rehabilitation opportunities for recovering drug users are open to the idea of working with drug users, and are fully informed and educated about the capabilities and potential of drug users - there is a view that negative stereotypes and a sense of unease about working with drug users can act as a major barrier to the more active participation of employers, training agencies and educational institutions in the rehabilitation process for drug users. A drugs education and awareness programme

targeted at these organisations will help to overcome misconceptions and concerns which might exist in relation to drug users. There is a particular need for employers to adopt a more benevolent and sympathetic attitude to drug users - organisations like the South Dublin Chamber of Commerce could play a significant role in encouraging employers to play a more active role in the development of rehabilitation opportunities for drug users.

- There is a need to address the accommodation needs of drug users who are homeless and who require some form of reasonable accommodation whilst they are participating on drug treatment and rehabilitation programmes. The provision of this type of decent, safe and secure accommodation is considered to be of significant importance in the successful rehabilitation of homeless drug users. In the absence of reasonable accommodation it is probable that the drug user will continue, or revert back to, his/her drug lifestyle. The TDTF, together with other relevant agencies and organisations will explore the possibilities of setting up a hostel and/or halfway house for homeless drug users from the Tallaght area. There is a particular onus and responsibility on the South Western Area Health Board and South Dublin County Council to develop initiatives and programmes in relation to the issue of homelessness within the Tallaght area. The TDTF will endeavour to ensure that these two key organisations produce effective and meaningful responses to the needs and circumstances of homeless people in Tallaght.
- There is a growing need to develop drugs related services for Travellers and non-nationals who are living within the Tallaght area. The experiences of the existing treatment and rehabilitation centres/projects would suggest that Travellers and non-nationals are not accessing these centres/projects. It is recognised, however, that there is a growing drugs problem amongst Travellers and that the significant increase in the number of non-nationals who have moved into Tallaght over the last three year period will also require a culturally appropriate drugs strategy for this section of the population. The TDTF, together with relevant Travellers/refugee support groups and statutory agencies, will develop drugs programmes and initiatives which are specifically targeted at Travellers and refugees/asylum seekers.

(iv) Reducing the Supply of Drugs

It is important to ensure that effective mechanisms are developed for curbing and curtailing the supply of drugs into local communities and housing estates within the Tallaght area. The open availability of drugs is a key factor in the unacceptably high level of

drug misuse/abuse in Tallaght. Therefore strategies aimed at decreasing the supply of drugs into Tallaght and effective action against drug dealers are considered to be key priorities in the struggle against drugs in the Tallaght area. It is recognised that the gardai have the primary responsibility in relation to curbing the supply of drugs in Tallaght and in ensuring that drug dealers are apprehended. The work of the gardai can be considerably enhanced through the active support and co-operation of local communities - residents within local communities can provide the gardai with the information which will often be required to identify known drug dealers and with the evidence which will often be necessary to secure a successful conviction. In this type of context it is essential that good positive relationships exist between the gardai and the local communities, relationships which are based on mutual trust and respect. In addition to asserting the primacy of the gardai in the crime prevention and crime detection process, the other key priority in curbing the supply of drugs relates to strategies which will lessen the likelihood of drug dealers being given opportunities to take up residence within local communities in Tallaght. These strategies will include the rigorous enforcement of the Housing Act 1997 Anti Social Behaviour provision (through which local authority tenants can be evicted for drug dealing activities) and estate management initiatives (which will involve the local communities and South Dublin County Council in trying to ensure that vacant housing units are not allocated to known/suspected drug dealers).

The following actions and strategies will be developed between 2001 and 2004 in relation to reducing the supply of drugs within the Tallaght area:

- Greater resources should be allocated to the work of the gardai in Tallaght. There is a strong view that a more significant garda presence in local communities in Tallaght can act as a significant deterrent to drug dealing within Tallaght and that the current level of garda resources in Tallaght (i.e. one garda for every 1,000 people) is totally inadequate in tackling the drugs crisis/problem within local communities. There is concern that not enough gardai are being deployed within local communities, and that the absence of an active garda presence makes it easier for drug dealers to ply their trade without fear of apprehension or conviction. The TDTF and other relevant agencies/organisations will lobby for additional garda resources to be allocated to Tallaght, and for these additional resources to be used in actively policing local communities and housing estates within Tallaght. Furthermore there is also a need to increase the resource and personnel available to the Drugs Squad in Tallaght and a need to establish a garda sub-station in west

Tallaght (this sub-station facility would help to ensure that the gardai can provide a more effective and rapid response to drug dealing and other criminal activity within the west Tallaght area).

- Support will be given to projects and initiatives aimed at improving and enhancing the relationship which exists between the gardai and local communities in the Tallaght area. It is recognised that there have been difficulties and tensions in this relationship with local communities feeling that the gardai could have been more active and effective and the gardai feeling that they are not receiving maximum cooperation from residents living within local communities in Tallaght. In order to develop a better relationship and understanding, support will be provided to initiatives which help to break down some of the barriers which currently exist between the gardai and local communities in the Tallaght area.
- There is concern about the unacceptably high levels of drug dealing which are taking place in locations where young people meet and congregate. Particular references were made to drug dealing which occurs in the vicinity of schools and in pubs/disco bars within the Tallaght area. There is an urgent and immediate need to curb the supply of drugs to young people and to develop strategies which would lessen the amount of drug dealing in places/locations which are frequented by young people. The TDTF will be fully supportive of these strategies and of measures which aim to impose the maximum sentences/sanctions on people convicted of selling/providing drugs to young people who are at a formative, impressionable and vulnerable stage in their development.
- A South Dublin unit of the Criminal Assets Bureau should be established. This local unit would target drug dealers within the South Dublin area and would take measures to ensure that the assets accumulated by drug dealers are sequestered by the State with monies collected through this sequestration process being distributed to anti drugs projects and programmes in the South Dublin area. It is considered that this type of initiative would act as a significant deterrent to drug dealers who are operational within the Tallaght area (with the possibility of all of their assets being confiscated).
- Estate management initiatives will continue to be supported. In addition to the existing estate management initiatives in Fettercaim and Killinarden, estate management projects should also be set up in the Brookfield, Jobstown, St. Aengus and St. Dominics/Avonbeg areas. These estate management initiatives should be

funded by South Dublin County Council. The experience of the TDTF between 1997 and 2000 would suggest that these types of initiatives can play an important role in developing new relationships and new understandings between community, voluntary and statutory agencies/groups which are working within individual communities in Tallaght. Estate management initiatives can help to identify the key problems and issues which need to be addressed and can serve to develop appropriate actions/strategies to deal with these problems/issues. It is considered that the estate management initiatives can play a particularly important role in relation to the allocation of housing units (so as to ensure that vacant properties are not allocated to known/suspected drug dealers) and in improving the environment, facilities and services within local communities (so as to lessen the possibilities of open drug dealing and to create new opportunities for drug users and people in danger of becoming involved in drug misuse/abuse).

- In relation to the various estate management initiatives there is a need to clarify the respective roles of the South Dublin County Council estate management activities and the work of the estate management offices which are being developed by local community organisations within the Tallaght area. There is a view that South Dublin County Council have not been fully supportive of the existing estate management initiatives being developed at the local community level; and that the full and active participation of South Dublin County Council is an essential ingredient in the establishment of successful and effective estate management initiatives. It is also recognised that South Dublin County Council needs to be provided with the resources and personnel which will be required to make an effective and meaningful contribution to estate management work within the South Dublin area. A comprehensive evaluation will take place of the existing estate management initiatives, with a view to determining the most effective ways in which to organise/manage these types of initiatives and to agreeing the roles/responsibilities of the various groups and organisations which are represented on the estate management committees.
- South Dublin County Council need to enforce the anti-social provisions contained within the 1997 Housing Act. These provisions enable South Dublin County Council to evict tenants from local authority housing units for anti-social behaviour. Drug dealing is one of the key interpretations of anti-social behaviour. South Dublin County Council should work closely with local community groups in trying to

identify tenants who are suspected of being involved in drug dealing, in accumulating evidence about their drug dealing activities and in taking appropriate action in evicting these tenants (if there is strong evidence that they have been engaged in drug dealing activities). The TDTF will also lobby and campaign to ensure that a rigorous sentencing policy for drug dealing (i.e. minimum sentence of 10 years for convicted drug dealers) is consistently applied within the Irish criminal justice system.

(v) Enhancing the Skills and Knowledge of Local Drugs Workers

There is a need to ensure that regular and ongoing opportunities exist for workers employed in drugs related projects in the Tallaght area to enhance their skills and knowledge. It is recognised that there has been a significant growth in the range and scope of drugs projects over the last five year period and that a reasonably large number of local people in Tallaght are engaged in providing services and programmes to drug users, the families of drug users and young people in danger of becoming involved in drug misuse/abuse. Whilst some of the people working in the various drug related projects and initiatives have formal training in areas like addiction studies, facilitation/groupwork skills, counselling and therapy, it is also acknowledged that many of the workers have had limited opportunities to participate in relevant training courses and programmes. In order to ensure that the various drug related projects and initiatives continue to provide, an effective and meaningful response to the needs of people effected by the drugs problem in Tallaght, it is important that appropriate support and training mechanisms are developed. The TDTF can play a key role in identifying outstanding training needs and in devising training programmes and courses which will provide an effective response to the training and support needs of local drugs workers within the Tallaght area.

The following actions and strategies will be developed between 2001 and 2004 in relation to the enhancement of the skills and knowledge of local drugs workers in Tallaght:

- Ongoing support will be provided to the Community Addiction Studies Course which is organised through the Institute of Technology Tallaght. In the period from 1997 to 2000, approximately 60 local people participated in this training course. The feedback from participants on this course has been reasonably positive - they feel that they are more educated and informed about the drugs issue and that they are in a better position to deal with the drugs issue/problem within their own communities. Whilst there is a need to re-assess the content of the Community Addiction Studies Course and the accreditation which is provided to participants on

this course, the TDTF and other relevant agencies/organisations will continue to support this particular training initiative and to provide ongoing opportunities for local people to enhance their skills and knowledge around the drugs issue.

- Consideration will be given to the development of more advanced and/or specialised training initiatives for local drugs workers. Whilst the Community Addiction Studies Courses can provide some basic understanding, information and insights into the drugs issue, it is apparent that many local drugs workers would also appreciate the opportunity to engage in more intensive or specialised training. Whilst it is recognised that advanced training opportunities exist outside the immediate Tallaght area (eg. Trinity College, St. Patrick's College Maynooth, Merchants Quay), there is also potential in exploring the development of appropriate advanced drug training courses/programmes within Tallaght - the number of projects and the number of local project workers would certainly seem to justify the development of additional and more intensive training courses/programmes in Tallaght. It is important that these courses/programmes present participants with effective progression routes, an opportunity to build on prior experience, and the possibility of securing accreditation and qualifications which are recognised within the broad drugs sector. The TDTF and other relevant agencies/organisations will explore the options which exist in relation to the establishment of advanced and specialist training programmes for local drugs workers.
- Strategies will be developed to promote the more active involvement of young people under the age of 30 in drugs projects and initiatives within the Tallaght area. There are relatively few young people involved in the various projects and initiatives which have been developed over the last five year period. It is considered important that opportunities be created for young people to join the management committees of local projects and to secure employment within these projects. On the basis of the low participation rates of young people in drug related projects, it will be necessary to devise educational/training programmes which are significantly orientated towards young people and which would provide young people with the type of skills and knowledge which are generally required to play an active and effective role in local drugs projects. In more particular terms, bursaries will be made available to young people who wish to participate in drugs related training courses and/or who are interested in carrying out research in the general drugs area.

- The TDTF will play a lead role in creating additional networking opportunities for workers employed in drug related projects and initiatives. The feedback from project workers consulted during the process of compiling the 2001-2004 Development Plan for the TDTF would suggest that significant benefits could be derived from the regular convening of a Drugs Workers Forum. This forum would enable local drugs workers to exchange information, to share models of good practice, to identify opportunities for collaboration and co-operation, to receive mutual support, to be updated on developments relating to the drugs issue at the national and local level. This forum of local drugs workers should be inclusive and promote the active involvement of all workers engaged in drugs related work in Tallaght (not just project leaders or co-ordinators). The forum of local drugs workers, which will be facilitated and organised by the TDTF, might convene on a six monthly basis.

7. COSTINGS/BUDGETS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 2001 - 2004 SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This section of the Service Development Plan will detail the costings which will be involved in the implementation of the actions and strategies detailed in section 6 of this report. These costings will relate directly to projects and strategies which will be supported through the TDTF. It is anticipated that other strategies outlined in Section 6 will be implemented and progressed by relevant agencies and organisations eg. the Central Addiction Centre will be developed by the South Western Area Health Board, the proposed increase in the policing resources within Tallaght will be progressed by An Garda Siochana.

In considering the actions/strategies to be supported directly by the TDTF, these will be categorised under the following headings:

- **Development and promotion of the work of the TDTF.**
- **Drugs education and prevention.**
- **Drug treatment.**
- **Drug rehabilitation and integration services.**
- **Reducing the supply of drugs.**
- **Enhancing the skills and knowledge of local drugs workers.**
- **Responses to emerging needs and new developments.**

7.2 DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF THE WORK OF THE TDTF

*** Actions**

- Influence policies, budgets and programmes of key statutory agencies.
- Monitor the extent of progress of the TDTF and key agencies in progressing the 2001-2004 Service Development Plan.
- Lobby and campaign in conjunction with the National Drug Strategy Team on issues relevant to the TDTF.
- Provide opportunities for the development of closer linkages and networking opportunities for local project workers involved in drugs work in Tallaght.
- Carry out quantitative and qualitative research into the nature and extent of drug use/misuse in Tallaght.
- Provide technical assistance to drugs projects/initiatives locally and publicise the work of the TDTF.

- Pro-actively seek appropriate premises in Tallaght from which to implement the strategies and actions.
- Organise a communications campaign to inform the community in Tallaght of the work of the TDTF and the services provided.

* **Implementation:**

- Employment of project development worker to work directly with projects and to provide technical assistance. This will enable the TDTF **to allocate resources to** concerted pro-active lobbying role on a range of issues. Cost £25,000 per annum.
- Allocate resources to recruit researchers.
Cost £20,000 per annum. Research briefs as indicated in the strategy section.
- Seek appropriate premises (including equipping and staffing costs) within Tallaght.
Cost £60,000 year one, £40,000 in following years.
- Allocate resources to a communications campaign.
Cost £25,000 per annum.

7.3 DRUGS EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

* **Actions**

- The continued/support and mainstreaming of those education/prevention projects funded in 1997-2000 period including:
 - Tallaght Youth Service, Peer Education programme
 - Killinarden Drug Primary Prevention Group.
 - The STAY Project.
 - Jobstown Community College Project.
- The employment of a Drugs Education worker/Co-ordinator who will be responsible for the development of a Tallaght wide Drugs Education Initiative.

The brief will include developing a network throughout the education system in Tallaght that will reduce the number of early school leavers and ensure the transition of all children through the formal or informal education system.

This will include ensuring that all schools in Tallaght at primary and secondary level are implementing the relevant Department of Education programmes.

- The Co-ordinator will also draw together the various drugs education projects in Tallaght and will develop in conjunction with other service providers programmes targeted at Travellers and non-nationals.

- Principals and Boards of Management of all schools in Tallaght be assisted/encouraged to develop drugs/substance misuse policies for their schools with minimum standards of achievement set for each pupil. This will be achieved through the work of the Education Co-ordinator.
- The development of a comprehensive/health education and substance misuse training package for youth groups in the Tallaght area ensuring that this forms an integral part of Youth Service Curriculum. This will include training for youth leaders and other adults who wish to develop an understanding of the drug issue.
- That the TDTF lobby in conjunction with other key players in Tallaght for a planned infrastructural development that will provide alternative activities to drug misuse and other social behaviours. It will be necessary to liaise closely with South Dublin County Council and the Young Peoples Services and Facilities Fund in ensuring that all developments are strategic and integrated, y
- There needs to be representation from the Department of Education on the TDTF. The Task Force, in conjunction with the National Drugs Strategy Team and using the offices of the Minister of State with responsibility for the Drug Task Forces will continue to lobby to ensure that this happens.

Implementation

The employment of a Drugs Education Co-ordinator who may be a teacher seconded from the Dept of Education/VEC. This workers main focus will be an in schools education. 35K. per. annum.

The employment of a Youth Education Co-ordinator who will provide education to Youth Groups and their main focus will be an out of school education. Foroige may be appropriate as the employing agency 35K. per. annum.

Lobby for Dept of Education Representation, Tallaght Drugs Task Force. 8k per. annum.

7.4 DRUG TREATMENT

*** Actions**

- All treatment projects, which received funding in the 1997-2000 period, should continue to be supported and receive mainstreaming funding. These are:
 - CARP, Community Addiction Response Programme.

- St. Aengus Community Action Group.
- Jobstown Assisting Drug Dependency.
- Fettercairn Drug Rehabilitation Programme.
- St. Dominic’s Community Response Project.
- The TDTF will seek to ensure that all treatment takes place in premises which are comfortable, well equipped and spacious. In the absence of such premises it is recommended that they be developed as soon as possible.
- Appropriate responses need to be developed in Springfield and Kilnamanagh, and responses in Brookfield need further development. This work should be carried out in conjunction with the South Western Area Health Board.
- The TDTF will lobby in conjunction with the National Drugs Strategy Team, the South Western Area Health Board and other parties for the development of the Central Addiction Centre for Tallaght.
- There is a need to conduct a review of treatment options for drug users in Tallaght. It was noted in the strategy document that a range of treatment options should be pursued. This would involve research into models of good practice elsewhere.
- There is a need for community development type work to be carried out to prepare for the provision of syringe exchange in Tallaght - it is envisaged that this work **will be** carried out in conjunction with the South Western Area Health Board.
- There is a need for dedicated services for young people involved in opiate misuse. This will include specialist services and fast-track detox.
- There is a need to develop services for the families of drug users and particularly drug users with young children. The Lorien project should be mainstreamed and resources should be allocated to a Tallaght wide service for drug using families with children. Barnardos could be the lead agency in this initiative in partnership with other key players and the South Western Area Health Board.
- There is a need for a “Post release” service for drug users being released from residential care/institutions.
- There is a need to develop a regular forum, which would allow all treatment providers, GP’s, community drug workers and pharmacists to meet and discuss issues on an informal and mutually supportive manner.
- * **Implementation**
- The TDTF will provide for the development of appropriate treatment responses in:
 - Springfield - Cost £20,000 per annum.
 - Kilnamanagh - Cost £20,00 per annum.

Brookfield - Cost £20,000 per annum.

These sums, whilst modest, are intended as seed/developmental funding. When the services in these areas have developed to an appropriate degree the TDTF will ensure that resources are allocated from statutory agencies including South Dublin County Council and the South Western Area Health Board to develop the responses further.

- The TDTF in conjunction with the National Drugs Strategy Team will lobby for a Central Addiction Centre in Tallaght. There is an urgent need for this initiative and the Task Force needs to provide leadership in pressing for a solution to this huge gap in services.
No financial cost.
- The TDTF through its development worker/Co-ordinator and in conjunction with appropriate other agencies will work towards the establishment of a syringe exchange in Tallaght.
Cost £2,000 per annum.
- Recruit specialist Medical Drugs Worker with a Tallaght wide brief to specialise in the detoxification of young users. This staff member would liaise closely with all treatment providers in Tallaght. This initiative could be joint funded and jointly managed by the South Western Area Health Board.
Cost of £35,000 per annum.
- Services for the children and families of drug users. A comprehensive child support service will be put in place for the families of drug users. This will be a Tallaght wide service. Bamardos who have significant expertise in this area could be the leading agency. This service will also include support for Parent Support Groups.
Cost of £200,000 per annum.
- An “Institution Worker” be appointed who will provide liaison/link services to residents in Tallaght who are either in residential custody or in treatment. This worker will liaise closely with the treatment projects to facilitate continuity of treatment.
Cost of £28,000 per annum.
- A regular Service Providers lunch meeting be facilitated by the TDTF at which service providers including pharmacists, GP’s, community workers and other players can exchange ideas and discuss issues of concern in a mutually supportive environment.

Cost of £1,000 per annum.

7.5 DRUG REHABILITATION AND INTEGRATION SERVICES

*** Actions**

- The existing Tallaght Rehabilitation Project be mainstreamed.
- The current role of local treatment centres in reintegration be supported and their future role in complementing the work of dedicated rehabilitation projects be explored.
- A Tallaght Rehabilitation Service initiative be established. This initiative would work with drug users on a personal rehabilitation plan and also refer and advocate on behalf of clients. This new initiative would link closely with, and be additional to, the planned South Western Area Health Board Rehabilitation Service.
- There is a need to increase the number of dedicated rehabilitation places from 15-20 to 48-60. This will entail two additional premises located in Tallaght (one for recovering drug users and one for active drug users). It is suggested that one of these be in West Tallaght and another in a central location.
- There is a need to educate public/private sector employers and education/training institutions about the rehabilitation needs and requirements of drug users in Tallaght. The aforementioned employers and institutions have a key role to play in the rehabilitation of recovering drug users.
- There is a need to address the accommodation needs of drug users who require appropriate housing to participate on programmes. There is a need to ensure that all rehabilitation services are accessible to and cater for the specific needs of Travellers and non-nationals.

*** Implementation**

- The establishment of a Tallaght wide rehabilitation initiative providing the services outlined above. Cost of £75,000 per annum.
- A professional quantitative and qualitative research analysis of the reintegration work being carried out by existing treatment centres to establish how they can work with and complement the activities of initiatives specifically focused on rehabilitation.
Cost of £10,000 in year one.

- The establishment of two additional rehabilitation facilities to provide for an increase in places from 15-20 to 48-60. Given the large set up costs this initiative will be processed on a phased basis in conjunction with FAS and the South Western Area Health Board. This service will be innovative and responsive and will be based on best practice world-wide. Cost Year 1, One programme 20 people £200,000.
- Private and public sector development work to ensure the involvement of the public and private sectors. The Education Co-ordinator and the staff from the Tallaght rehabilitation initiative will undertake this work. No financial cost to TDTF.
- Accommodation needs should be addressed on a cross Task Force basis and in conjunction with the National Drug Strategy Team.

7.6 REDUCING THE SUPPLY OF DRUGS

*** Actions:**

- There is a need for increased Garda resources particularly in the Tallaght Drugs Unit. A secondary action is the establishment of a sub Garda station in West Tallaght.
- Support will be given to projects that will enhance Garda community relations.
- A South Dublin locally targeted Criminal Assets Bureau needs to be established.
- Estate Management initiatives funded between 1997 and 2000 need to be mainstreamed.
- There is a need for clarification of roles and responsibilities in relation to Estate Management across the South County with the full participation of the local authority.
- There is a need to enforce the anti-social provisions of the 1997 Housing Act.

*** Implementation:**

- The mainstreaming of existing Estate Management initiatives.
- To lobby, in conjunction with the National Drugs Strategy Team, for more Garda resources for Tallaght.
- A lobby established in conjunction with the National Drugs Strategy Team and other Task Forces for a locally based South Dublin Criminal Assets Bureau.
Cost of £5,000 per annum.
- The establishment of a cross Task Force lobby to ensure the development of appropriate systems of Estate Management across Dublin. This would involve

working closely with Dublin City-wide Drugs Crisis Campaign and other agencies. Unless the approach is co-ordinated across the city it will simply mean moving the problem from one area to another.

Cost of £10,000 per annum.

7.7 ENHANCING THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL DRUG WORKERS

*** Actions:**

- To mainstream the Community Addiction Studies Course.
- The development of a more advanced/specialised training course for local Drugs Workers.
- The development of strategies to ensure the involvement of young people in the drugs projects and initiatives in Tallaght. ,,
- The development of networking opportunities for Drugs Workers involved in all projects. There should also be a mixture of disciplines.

*** Implementation:**

- Mainstreaming of Community Addiction Studies Course.
- The development of an Advanced Drugs Workers Course. Cost of £38,000 per annum.
- The encouragement of participation by **young people** will be undertaken by the Youth Education worker. No additional cost.
- Regular (3 monthly) Information Sharing lunches for Drugs Workers and workers involved in education and supply issues. This will lead to a more formalised network.

Cost of £ 1,000 per annum.

7.8 RESPONSES TO EMERGING/NEW NEEDS

*** Actions:**

- The establishment of a development fund that can respond to emerging needs in Tallaght over the lifespan of the 2001-2004 plan.

*** Implementation:**

- A development fund will be established which will allow the Task Force to respond to emerging needs. It will do this by reviewing the situation in Tallaght and allocating resources to the areas/situations of greatest need. Cost of £30,000 per annum.

7.9 OVERVIEW OF ANNUAL COSTINGS/BUDGET

On the basis of the costings detailed in this section of the report, the following represents the proposed annual budget for the implementation of the 2001-2004 Service Development Plan of the TDTF:

• The development of the role and function of the TDTF Force Reducing by £20,000 after year one.	£130,000
• Drugs Education and Prevention	£78,000
• Drug Treatment and Support for Drug Users	£326,000
• Rehabilitation and Integration Services	£285,000
• Reducing the supply of drugs	£15,000
• Enhancing the skills and knowledge of local Drug Workers	£39,000
• Responses to emerging needs and new developments	£30,000
• Total in Year One	£903,000