

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE'S ANNUAL REPORT ON DRUG MISUSE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 28 th February, 2002	Ref: GMCI/JJ	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

1.1 To advise the Social Work Committee of the publication in November, 2001 of the "Scottish Executive's Annual Report on Drug Misuse".

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In May 2000 the Scottish Executive produced their Drug Action Plan. This document was produced as a means of the Executive reporting on the action taken or planned as its contribution to implementing the National Strategy, "Tackling Drugs in Scotland: Action in Partnership", which had been published in March 1999. Both reports have previously been presented to Social Work Committee.
- 2.2 The Annual Report on Drug Misuse details how the various elements of the current £100 million of expenditure has been utilised. It also highlights the issues relating to the four main pillars of the National Strategy with the relevant targets highlighted in each section to allow the measurement of progress. The four main pillars are:- Young People, Treatment, Communities, Availability.
- 2.3 Lanarkshire Drug Action Team has overall responsibility for co-ordinating and overseeing addiction services in Lanarkshire.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Annual Report contains a comprehensive account of the progress which has been achieved in tackling drug misuse, and also details future plans. The Committee will be interested to note the following achievements:-

- National targets became effective from April 2001.
- The Drugs Enforcement Agency has been established.
- The establishment of a new training body, Scottish Training on Drugs and Alcohol (STRADA) which has a focus on multi professional training.
- An annual survey of drug education in schools has established that 97% of schools in Scotland provide drug education.
- Draft Policy and Practice Guidelines have been published (September 2001) in relation to working with children and families affected by drug misuse ("Getting Our Priorities Right").

- Funding provided to Local Authorities to allow a national roll-out of diversion from prosecution schemes.
- Accepted the recommendations of the Working Group on piloting a Drug Court in Glasgow.
- Increased access to treatment provision through a 69% increase in number of GP Practices participating in the shared care of drug misusers.
- Achieved an increase in the number of prisoners accessing treatment in prisons from around 5,300 in 1999-2000 to over 7,000 in 2000-2001.
- The Scottish Drugs Enforcement Agency has in partnership with other law enforcement agencies seized controlled drugs with a street value of over £17.6 million.

3.2 The above actions are a sample of the achievements by the Executive. In addition new measures are planned which include:-

- Significant expansion of drug misuse treatment and care provision.
- Improvements in the range of information which will aid practitioners' management of drug users and assist in the planning and provision of local services.
- Through Health Education Board Scotland continue the television and cinema 'Think About It' campaign targeted at young people.
- Pledge through the UK Government an additional £40 million under the New Deal Programme to help those with a history of drug misuse to help them get and keep jobs.
- Ensure that the number of drug misusers in contact with community based rehabilitation services increases, through monitoring and following up DAT plans.
- Ensure that all DAT areas introduce or further develop shared care and specialist services utilising the additional £13 million treatment resources allocated to NHS Boards in April 2001.

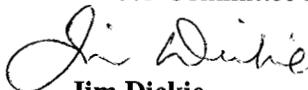
3.3 The Annual Report on Drug Misuse sets out over 40 specific areas of action which the Executive will pursue to address drug misuse issues. A copy of the report is available in the Members' Library.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no new implications in this report.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.



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4th January, 2002

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