

CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

3 March 2003

Crime & Community Safety Partnership and DAT: Future Arrangements

Reason for Report

1. To inform the Partnership of pending changes in the Drug Action Team structure
2. To consider government proposals for merging Community Safety and DAT funding streams
3. To recommend a future course of action in respect of these issues

Background

The Home Office has recently completed a prolonged consultation process aimed at considering future working arrangements between the Drug Action Teams (DATs) and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs). It recommended that each area should consider either a merger or the development of more robust systems of joint working. The CCSP in Milton Keynes felt that working arrangements already met the required criteria, and we proposed no radical alteration in existing arrangements.

The DAT has subsequently agreed a radical restructuring in order to become more responsive to the developing national anti-drug strategy. Changes are due to take effect in April 2003, and the new structure is set out in the document *DAT Restructure* attached. Basically, this envisages a 3 tier system:

- A small strategic group of chief officers called the Drug Strategy Board (DSB) meeting twice a year
- A larger team of senior officers, meeting more frequently in order to ensure strategy delivery. This may be called the Substance Planning and Implementation Group (SPIT)
- A series of 6 operational teams (DOTs) focusing on specific areas of work throughout the strategy. These include a DOT on alcohol misuse, which will work with the CCSP to develop a local strategy in this area

The Home Office has subsequently consulted Partnerships on proposals for future funding. This suggests that each Partnership should state a preference on one of two choices:

Option A – a single funding stream for Partnerships that merges the Communities Against Drugs programme, the Safer Communities Initiative and

the Partnership Development Fund (and, from 2004, the DAT Development Funding and DAT CAD).

Option B – two funding streams for Partnerships, Communities Against Drugs and a merged Safer Communities Initiative and Partnership Development Fund (and, from 23004), the DAT Development Funding and DAT CAD).

The consultation document appears document *Planning Expenditure Feb 2003*) attached. The letter requesting feedback was issued on 3 February with a deadline of 17 February for replies. Based on the limited consultation that was possible in the time allowed, the CCSP supported simpler funding arrangements. However, there seemed to be no advantage in merging the PDF and DAT Development Fund as there are no plans to combine the two bodies in Milton Keynes .

If separate funding streams are to be considered, it may be appropriate to distinguish partnership support money from funding used for strategy delivery.

The reply to the consultation paper is attached (email from R Solly to H Marriage).

Recommendations

- 1.** That the DAT restructuring arrangements be noted by the Partnership. This should not change the fundamentally sound working relationship between the two partnerships.
- 2.** That the alcohol DOT should report directly to the CCSP as well as the DAT. The CDRP and DAT Co-ordinators will facilitate joint working arrangements.
- 3.** That the Partnership supports the initial response given to GOSE (R Solly email to H Marriage)

RS
17.2.03