

ROCHFORD CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY 2002/05 - UPDATE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To apprise Members of the latest update to the Rochford Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2002/05 concerning the Primary Objective of Substance Misuse.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The production of a new Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy for Rochford District by April 2002 was a statutory requirement in terms of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 2.2 At a recent Crime and Disorder Partnership meeting, the Partnership group reviewed the Primary Objective on Substance Misuse, from which a progress table has been produced (see appendix A).
- 2.3 A full report, reviewing all of the Primary Objectives of the Strategy, will be written early in the New Year. This will be part of the evaluation of the current Strategy in order to draw up the next Strategy for 2005/08. The report will be brought to this Committee.

3 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 These are self evident from the contents of the draft strategy.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are a number of actions that have resource implications, funding for which is provided through Home Office grants for the Partnership.

5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That the Council acknowledges the progress made within the Strategy on Substance Misuse.

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

Background Papers:

None

For further information please contact Stephen Garland.

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Appendix A

Primary Objective 4: Substance Misuse

No.	Action	Progress
1.	Provide professional help for the problem drug user who enters the Criminal Justice System	<p>This action refers to the Drug Arrest Referral Scheme (DARS). The DARS worker attends the DARG meetings to provide regular updates.</p> <p>The 6th DARS report for November 2002 to April 2003, stated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 695 people were seen by the DARS worker (141 increase on previous report) • 58 were assessed (30 increase) • 48 referred to treatment (20 increase) • 11 kept their appointments (same) <p>An additional Drug Arrest Referral worker will be in post in January 2004.</p>
2.	Support the continued development of Drug Testing and Treatment Orders (DTTO)	<p>DTTOs are the responsibility of the National Probation Service and a representative regularly attends Drug and Alcohol Reference Group (DARG) meetings.</p> <p><u>2002/2003,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 130 orders made in Essex • 140 Government target for Essex • 21 orders made in Southend area and • 21 orders revoked in same period. • 11 orders current. <p>The Government target for 2003/2004 is 212 (47 for Southend).</p>
3.	Monitor the provision of treatment services, detoxification, rehabilitation and structured day care.	<p>This part of the strategy is being carried forward by a Substance Misuse Group set up by the Primary Care Trust (PCT), members of which regularly report to the DARG.</p>

4.	Make resources available to scope the extent and level of Problematic substance misuse through a pilot scheme in Rochford.	<p>Consultants were commissioned and a final report published in April 2003. This report was considered and commented on at a meeting of this Committee last July (Minute 346/03)</p> <p>Appendix B shows a letter in response to the comments made from the Chairman of the Partnership.</p>
5.	Continue to fund and support the 'Proof of Age' Scheme	<p>1008 cards were issued in 2002/2003 at a cost of £930</p> <p>1007 will be issued in 2003/2004 at a cost of £1057.35.</p> <p>Test purchasing will be carried out in due course by Trading Standards.</p>
6.	Promote greater awareness and use of the drug related debris removal scheme.	<p>Very few reports received.</p> <p>Draft leaflet has been prepared in consultation with PCT and Environmental Health. Enquiries being made with printers.</p>
7.	Endorse and support the Drug and Alcohol Reference Group's Action Plan	The Action Plan for 2003/2005 has been approved by the DARG and is awaiting comments from Drug Action Team (DAT).
8.	Ensure a positive response to alcohol and drug related crime and disorder.	This is measured in the number of arrests and cautions by the Police.
9.	Establish liaison with Youth Offending Team (YOT) in order to focus reparation work for the benefit of the community, including diversionary projects.	<p>YOT representatives attend CDRP meetings and chair the Youth Issues Group.</p> <p>Funding has been provided for a lap top computer to assist with reparation work.</p> <p>A graffiti protocol is being prepared and where appropriate reparation work will be offered.</p>

1 December 2003

Stephen Garland
Community Safety Officer
Rochford District Council
South Street
Rochford
Essex SS4 1BW

Dear Stephen

Report into the substance misuse needs of young people living in Rochford

Thank you for your letter of 23 September addressed to me in my capacity as Chairman of the Rochford Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), advising me of the resolution passed by your Members at a Committee meeting in July. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding, but I am sure that you will appreciate my desire to consult with colleagues before replying.

I regret that I cannot understand the comment regarding the supposed “lack of statistical evidence to support many of the claims made in the report”, and can only assume that Members were not given the opportunity to read the full report. Nonetheless, I would be happy to discuss any specific points that Members feel were not justified.

We have not yet identified any ongoing resource implications for the District. In a number of cases, outside funding has been sought to meet the recommendations of the report. In others, development work continues, but it is the intention of the CDRP to explore all sources of alternative finance before approaching the Council.

With regard to the three specific recommendations made by Members, I can comment:

- The researchers stand by the statistical validity of their findings. The report was discussed in draft form on a number of occasions by the Castle Point & Rochford Drug & Alcohol Reference Group (DARG) and by the CDRP. During this process, in which representatives of Rochford District Council participated, a number of amendments were made to improve the clarity of some of the statistical data. In addition, a number of items of information that had not originally been available to the researchers were added to the report.

The researchers included in their recommendations that further, more detailed, work was required in a number of areas, and the CDRP and DARG are now taking these recommendations forward.

- Drug education did not form part of the researchers' brief.

Since their inception, the CDRP and DARG have always accorded a high priority to drug educational work with young people, parents and carers. As a result, their respective Action Plans already contain a high number of initiatives to address this area of work. Copies of both Action Plans are available to Members, and I would be delighted to provide more details if required.

- It was, and still is, our belief that all of the CDRP's objectives are realistic, and I can assure Members that resource implications are a constant theme of our discussions.

In conclusion, I believe that the commissioning of this study and the publication of the report has been an extremely worthwhile exercise. It has provided a real focus for the work of the Partnership. Some, if not all, of the key points of the report have been discussed at every DARG and CDRP meeting during 2003, and, in the twelve months since the original draft report was published, a great deal of progress had been made towards meeting many of its recommendations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Yours sincerely

Ray Hatter
Chairman, Rochford Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership
Health Promotion Specialist (Substance Misuse)