

REPORT TO: HEALTHIER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 22 OCTOBER, 2009

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE REFERRAL PATHWAYS – DRUGS HEAT TARGETS

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Strategic Group is asked to note the guidance given and be aware of the cross cutting issues for other themed groups.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Strategic Group is asked to use the Guidance on Referral Pathways document (**attached as APPENDIX 1**) to support progress in offering drug misusers faster access to appropriate treatment to support their recovery.

2.2 The Strategic group is asked to promote a partnership approach in reducing waiting times for appropriate treatment to support recovery.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The national drugs strategy 'The Road to Recovery' sets out a significant programme to reduce problem drug use in Scotland. Central to the strategy is the belief that all drug treatment services should promote recovery. This is a process that enables drug users to move on from their problem drug use.

3.2 'Changing Scotland's Relationship with Alcohol' takes a whole population approach to reducing the harm caused by alcohol.

3.3 In January 2008 a Delivery Reform Group was set up to improve the delivery of alcohol and drug services in Scotland. The main purpose of this group was to improve the outcomes for service users.

3.4 The Delivery Reform Group has a specific remit to:-

- Develop and propose an outcomes-based framework for assessing and managing performance at a local level;
- Develop and propose a clear statement of the strategic functions which need to be carried out at a local level to deliver national alcohol and drugs strategy;
- Develop and propose robust accountability arrangements between central government and partner organisations,

consistent with the new relationship with local government under the terms of the Concordat agreed in November 2007; and

- Consider the need for a National Support Function and, if supported, develop proposals for its role, structure and responsibilities.

3.5 In April 2009 the Scottish Government published a New Framework for Local Partnerships on Alcohol and Drugs. This set out a new framework for local partnerships on alcohol and drugs to ensure that all partners were clear about their responsibilities in tackling alcohol and drug problems.

3.6 HEAT target A11 – To offer drug misusers faster access to appropriate treatment to support their recovery will ensure that as of April 2010, the following targets should be met:

Referral to assessment – 90% within 4 weeks (no one waiting more than 8 weeks)

Assessment to treatment – 90% within 4 weeks (no one waiting more than 8 weeks)

3.7 The HEAT target A11 is the first time waiting times for drug users has been incorporated into the HEAT System.

3.8 Although HEAT is a health board target, the Scottish Government are promoting whole system approach to reducing waiting times and as such A11 will incorporate data from all tier 3 and 4 services.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans

The Community Planning Board has agreed that Outcome 6 within the Single Outcome Agreement will be addressed by the Healthier Strategic Group. Substance misuse is a main outcome within this priority.

(b) Policy and Legal

The MADP is a statutory body, established by the Scottish Executive and inherited by the Scottish Government.

(c) Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)

All resource implications arising from meeting A11 HEAT Target will be met by ring-fenced funding for the MADP, and partner contributions currently provided by the Moray Council and NHS Grampian.

(d) Consultations

The Guidance on referral Pathways has been widely consulted on.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Guidance on Referral Pathways document gives a comprehensive overview of what requires to be achieved, how to achieve it and how to meet the timelines. It is imperative that the document is used to promote a partnership approach in reducing the waiting times for those seeking to access treatment to support their recovery.

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