

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Social Work Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>7 February 2007</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Social Work Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Scottish Drugs Forum - DTTO Lanarkshire - Year Two Service User Evaluation</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise Social Work Resources Committee of the content of the Year Two Service User Evaluation of the Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTO) Lanarkshire Service.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the contents of the report which suggests very positive outcomes for those who are subject to DTTO be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. DTTO are a high tariff disposal for those for whom custody is a likely alternative given the nature and persistence of their offending behaviour. The aim of DTTO is to reduce both the level of acquisitive crime and the level of drug misuse.
- 3.2. DTTO is a unique disposal in that it is under regular scrutiny from the Court and it requires a high level of commitment from service users who have a high level of contact with all the agencies involved. It was initially piloted in Glasgow in October 1999 and Fife in December 2005 but is now available to all Courts in Scotland.
- 3.3. As part of the development of the service, the Lanarkshire scheme recognised the need to hear the views of service users in order to develop the services that were relevant to their needs.
- 3.4. On that basis the Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) were asked to undertake a service user evaluation in 2005 in Lanarkshire looking at a number of areas including:
  - Knowledge of DTTO
  - Views of the service
  - Staff
  - Achievement
  - Suggested improvements.
- 3.5. The first year report noted some very positive views in relation to the service that suggested areas for improvement. These included improved information on the

nature of DTTO; clarifying in partnership with the service users their goals and expectations and challenging them to achieve; and methods of treatment and support to continue after the end of the order.

- 3.6. The Lanarkshire scheme addressed issues and incorporated them into practice. SDF were therefore invited back in order to follow up on whether or not from the service user's perspective the service had improved.

#### 4. **Current Position**

- 4.1. SDF carried out a re-evaluation of the service in September 2006. They used a variety of methods to elicit a response. This included peer research which is demonstrated as being more likely to elicit a candid response.
- 4.2. The report found positive improvements in relation to DTTO. Those who engage with the service clearly benefit from the interventions and it is a significant factor in encouraging lifestyle change.
- 4.3. In relation to the specific issues that required to be addressed from the previous report, the findings of the evaluation were as follows:
- **Understanding DTTO** – SDF found a significant improvement from the previous report. Information was available to individuals. Most significantly the relationship established with the DTTO workers helped people understand what was required and supported them to consider their objectives.
  - **Expectations of Service** - Individual's expectations were clearly being met. Users commented that the scheme was delivering considerably more than they expected. For many it proved a turning point in their life and increased their personal motivation.
  - **Substitute Prescribing** - People felt more involved in discussion and being presented with options. Also involved from the beginning of the order in considering these options.
  - **Relationship with Staff** - Staff are available and approachable. They helped empower service users. Service users with substance misuse difficulties have stated that contact with staff is a more positive experience than they have previously experienced.
  - **Groupwork** - Previously identified as a gap. That is now introduced and seen as a positive development by service users.
  - **Assessment** - Individuals were positive about their involvement in the assessment process.
  - **Care Plans** - Individuals felt more involved and consulted about the content of their care plan.
  - **Exit Strategy** - This is still an area which provokes a lot of anxiety among service users who need to know that they will get follow up after their order finishes. Some work has progressed in this area but is an area that service users are likely to continue to feel anxious about.
  - **Going to Court** - Service Users see a benefit in attending court particularly when they are making good progress. The Sheriff's role is seen as positive and service users feel well supported by workers.
- 4.4. The SDF note that there are limits to their research because the scale is relatively small.

## **5. General Implications for the Council**

- 5.1. Despite the limitations of the research, the report is very positive about how services working jointly can be effective in significantly improving the life opportunity for individuals.
- 5.2. It should be noted that the benefits go beyond those individuals on DTTO. There are clearly benefits to the community in the reduction in offending behaviour and there are benefits to the service user's family from the change in lifestyle.
- 5.3. Perhaps the most significant benefit is the improved relationships that service users have within their family and on many occasions with their children.

## **6. Employee Implications**

- 6.1. None directly although the high level of commitment the whole staff group give to this area of work should be commended. This is a very positive example of staff from different disciplines, Health, Social Care and Substance Misuse, working together in an effective manner.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. None directly.

## **8. Other Implications**

- 8.1. None

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1. The report is based on consultation with staff and users and has been considered by the Implementation Group.

**Harry Stevenson**  
**Executive Director (Social Work Resources)**

8 December 2006

### **Link(s) to Council Objectives**

- Healthy and Safe Communities

### **Previous References**

None

### **List of Background Papers**

- SDF Report 2006

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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