
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 13
DATE OF MEETING:	15 NOVEMBER 2001	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	STUART BATCHELOR (COMMUNITY & LEISURE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER). EXT. 5820	DOC: S:\Cent_Serv\Committee Reports\Community Services\15 Nov 2001\Community Drugs Officer.doc
SUBJECT:	COMMUNITIES AGAINST DRUGS	REF: SB/AMV
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: CS3

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 To support the appointment of a Community Drugs Officer through the employment of the officer and the provision of office accommodation within the Community and Leisure Development Team.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To inform Members of the Communities Against Drugs Scheme, the proposed projects to be undertaken in South Derbyshire, and seek their approval to employ a Community Drugs Officer and provide office accommodation within the Community and Leisure Development Team.

3.0 Detail

3.1 In May the Government announced a major scheme to tackle the problems of drug use in England and Wales. Titled 'Communities Against Drugs' (CAD) the scheme has three objectives,

- To disrupt the supply of drugs
- To reduce drug related crime
- To develop the communities ability to counter the use and affects of drugs.

3.2 To achieve these objectives, every Crime and Disorder Partnership has been allocated funding on a formula basis. This formula included a set amount for each partnership plus an allocation based on the level of drug related crime, eg: domestic burglary, robbery, theft from vehicles.

3.3 The allocation provided to the South Derbyshire Crime and Disorder Partnership is £71,400 a year for three years. In years 2 and 3 this allocation would increase to £107,000 and £142,800 respectively if the Home Office applies the same formula it applied in Year 1 to the total budget it has available.

- 3.4 The conditions relating to the CAD scheme were only confirmed in September but unlike many other Partnerships, South Derbyshire already has the Reference Group required by the Home Office to manage the funding, in the form of the Substance Misuse Group.
- 3.5 Other conditions included a 32% spend on capital and that local authorities would be responsible for the funding.
- 3.6 The Substance Misuse Group established a set of projects that it believed would tackle the objectives mentioned earlier.

The projects that have been agreed include:

Outreach Youth Work Program – the purchase and staffing of a mobile youth club to target work in locations where drug use by young people has been identified. In Year 1 the vehicle will be purchased and be operational for Years 2 and 3. The funding from CAD also supports a part-time post at the Youth Information Shop that supports the Shops work on drugs referral and treatment advice. The project has secured partnership funding of £15,000 and £6,000 from the Primary Care Group and Drug and Alcohol Action Team retrospectively.

QDOS Theatre Residency – a drama/dance based holiday scheme that was held in August at William Allitt School. Professional artists worked with local young people to develop a performance based on drug use. Over 100 people attended the launch and the performance is to be repeated in schools and youth clubs.

Police Operation – a police operation is to be funded to disrupt the supply of drugs in local communities.

Community Project Fund – a 'community chest' to which local groups and agencies can bid to fund projects which contribute to reduced drugs use and environmental improvement of areas where drugs are used.

Community Consultation – very little information is known about the affect drugs have on the South Derbyshire Community and the Council for Voluntary Service has been commissioned to undertake this qualitative research. The consultation will be staged over a period of time to ascertain whether CAD projects are influencing the supply and use of drugs in the District.

Community Drugs Officer – the appointment of an Officer dedicated to working on the reduction of substance misuse and related crime in the District. The post would work with local communities to develop their ability to reject drug use, support parents, co-ordinate funding bids for new services and support the Domestic Burglary, Autocrime, and Nuisance and Disorder Action Teams.

- 3.7 A number of further projects are on hold ready to be delivered if the Home Office increases its allocation of funding for Years 2 and 3. These include a further Police operation, purchase of surveillance equipment to be available to the Crime and Disorder Partnership and an Offender Treatment Project.
- 3.8 The selected projects have been approved by the Divisional Police Commander and the Derbyshire DAAT Co-ordinator and can now be delivered.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The projects identified in Year 1 will cost £71,400, as per the CAD allocation.
- 4.2 If the CAD funding remains at £71,400 in Years 2 and 3 the Crime and Disorder Partnership will be required to fund the £1,300 to £3,427 shortfall on the projects which have ongoing commitments. However, it is expected that the £71,400 will be increased in Years 2 and 3 to the levels mentioned previously. The financial costs of the projects are identified on Annexe 1.
- 4.3 In terms of the Councils commitment to employing the Community Drugs Officer, this cost will be fully covered by the CAD funding with the exception of a desk and telephone support. The salary scale will be SO1 £19,770 to £21,702 with oncosts this will be approximately £24,712 to £27,127. The Crime and Disorder Partnership would fund any additional costs such as travel and training.
- 4.4 Consequently the CAD scheme will not result in any direct cost to the Council.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The CAD scheme contributes towards the Corporate aim of providing a safe environment for the residents of South Derbyshire.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 The CAD scheme and its projects will deliver a significant amount of work aimed at reducing the influence of drugs in South Derbyshire.
- 6.2 The work will increase the communities capacity to manage and reduce the influence of drugs and add to the development of stronger, safer communities.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The CAD scheme will deliver significant resources to the District to assist in the reduction of crime and disorder. As well as targeting the supply of drugs the identified projects will provide numerous opportunities for the local community in terms of youth work, environmental improvements and cultural activities.
- 7.2 When combined it is hoped that these projects will have a positive effect on the quality of peoples lives and provide a safer community to live in.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Communities Against Drugs File.

