



## Minutes of a meeting of the Highland ADP Strategy Group Held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at NHS Highland, John Dewar Building, Inverness

**Present:** Dr Margaret Somerville, Director of Public Health (Chair)  
Bill Alexander, Director of Health & Social Care (Vice-Chair)  
Provost Liz MacDonald, Political Champion for Alcohol and Drugs  
Supt. John Darcy, Northern Constabulary  
Inspector Tom Ogilvie, Northern Constabulary  
Dr Duncan Stewart, Consultant in Addictions  
Dawn Grant, Area Manager, Children's Services  
Karen Carson, Health Promotion Specialist  
David McRonald, Head of Finance – Community Care  
Debbie Stewart, Co-ordinator, HADP  
Sarah Henderson, Health & Intelligence Officer, HADP

**Apologies:** Hugh Fraser, Director of Education, Culture & Sport Service  
Alasdair MacDonald, Head of SFIU – North  
Elisabeth Smart, Consultant in Public Health  
Suzy Calder, Substance Misuse Service Manager

Item	Discussion	ACTION
1	<b>WELCOMES AND APOLOGIES</b>  Dr Somerville welcomed everyone to the meeting and round the table introductions were made to introduce new member Cllr Liz MacDonald.	
2	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  The minutes of the previous meeting held on <u>28<sup>th</sup> November 2012</u> were approved subject to clarification of Item 7 that a response from the National DRD Database had been received. <i>The discrepancy between NRS and NC drug related death figures for 2011 has been identified as 4 deaths that were recorded as suicides which were later identified as drug related deaths.</i>	
3	<b>MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS FROM 28 NOVEMBER</b>	
3.1	<b>Actions from Item 4.1-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>Door Entry Policy</i> – Correspondence had been received from the Convener of the Highland Licensing Board, Cllr Maxine Smith in response to Dr. Somerville's letter of 14<sup>th</sup> January. The letter was not circulated to this meeting but a copy is available if required. The letter outlines the reasons</li></ul>	

for the Board's decision to abolish the Curfew. Supt Darcy re-affirmed disappointment at the outcome from the consultation event in Nov 2012 and has raised concerns at the Safer Highland leadership meeting.

Liz MacDonald asked to point out as a member of the Licensing Board that party politics played no part in the consultation meeting.

- Information leaflets had been distributed to festive party goers.
- A brief update on the Family Group Conferencing project is provided in the strategy progress report.
- Dawn and Suzy are still to meet to discuss how best to ensure robust integration between children and adult services for young people with substance misuse issues. Dawn/  
Suzy
- The Financial Framework is not on the agenda for this meeting but will be subject to discussion which David and Margaret will bring back to the next meeting. David /  
Margaret
- It was noted that HADP Finance and Commissioning Group will be considering a process for small initiative funding. Debbie /  
Liz

*Drug Related Deaths Update* - Progress on who will take over responsibility for the National DRD Database is no further forward. Tom advised that the Divisional Co-ordination Unit is not yet clear who will replace him but it is likely that the responsibility for DRDs will continue but that assistance is likely to be sought with inputting data. John Darcy added that a more centralised system of reporting on deaths may be developed as responsibility is likely to be retained by Regional Commanders. The intention will be to fully support partnership work and establish closer ties with the community.

It was noted that Dr Duncan Stewart links into the Expert Review on Methadone.

Cllr MacDonald said that she would be interested to receive the information given to schools on Legal Highs.

**Action:** Debbie to send to Councillor MacDonald.

Debbie

Highland Council now has a scrutiny role for fire and Police services creating a new relationship with elected members. There is still a strong drive from National Government on spending priorities but local priorities should begin to shape the future direction.

Work is underway to collate the strategic needs assessment.

## 4 STRATEGY DELIVERY

### 4.1 Progress Reports –

#### 4.1.1. *Recovery Outcome.*

- *Meeting with Roseanna Cunningham* - Margaret reported key points from the recent meeting with the Minister, Roseanna Cunningham. A further face to face meeting has been arranged for 25<sup>th</sup> Feb which Margaret and Debbie will attend. It is anticipated that drug deaths and the wait times target will continue to be priorities for discussion. Ms Cunningham was keen to emphasise that the target had been met nationally. She emphasised the need to ensure data processes are robust and will stand up to scrutiny. The wait times target for the Oct – Dec quarter is likely to be 79.9% against a trajectory of 80%. Although sympathetic to remote and rural challenges, Ms Cunningham stressed that numbers are likely to be low in these areas. She offered to take up relevant issues at a national level to assist with unblocking obstacles to achieving the target and recommended looking to other ADPs and practice models in Scandinavian countries.

**Action:** Debbie & Margaret to attend meeting with Minister and report back to next strategy group.

Debbie /  
Margaret

- *Addictions Special Interest Group* - A report on the Recovery Event held on 29<sup>th</sup> November was circulated for information and commended by Supt Darcy. The morning of the event took the form of presentations and a discussion about the different aspects of an integrated care pathway. The afternoon focused on workshops to consider monitoring and reporting on a pathway. The need to measure 'quality of life' alongside specific substance misuse indicators came up for discussion. Margaret said that the ADP would be looking to see how this is developed and integrated in to the future work of services. A visual representation of how the pathway is developing would be useful.

**Action:** Suzy and Duncan to explore ways of visually representing the pathway to aid understanding.

Suzy /  
Duncan

- Debbie highlighted that she gained a real sense of the amount and complexity of work involved in this aspect of the strategy and that HADP could not underestimate the need to support Suzy in this work.

**Action:** ADP to ensure the hard work by services to improve delivery of treatment is recognised and valued.

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#### 4.1.2 *Maximising Health -*

- *Festivals update* – Karen Carson reported that actions from

the last meeting were taken to the multi-agency group and the festival organisers. Supt Darcy raised concerns about the Loop a Lou festival which takes place in Ullapool in September and was keen that recommendations from other festivals apply to this event to include any prevention and education work.

**Action:** Karen to raise at multi-agency group the need to apply lessons to other festivals such as Loop a Lou. Karen

- *Overprovision* – Both qualitative and quantitative data is currently being collated. A survey is being developed on Survey Monkey and the voluntary sector interface has been commissioned to undertake a public consultation exercise. Quotes are being sought on expert opinion that will also be filmed. The work will be included in a report for the licensing board. There will be a period of consultation and a need to give some view that is shared by Safer Highland.
- The 2013 Rock Challenge event will take place at Eden Court Theatre on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

#### 4.1.3 **Protecting Communities -**

- A Legal High master class takes place on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb in conjunction with colleagues from SCDEA and Dumfries and Galloway ADP. Supt Darcy argued for the need for education and firm messages due to the current debate surrounding decriminalisation. Margaret cautioned that as a strategic body the ADP is guided by Scottish Government, and as such we are required to adhere to their guidance. Whether the ADP can lobby the government on these issues requires consideration and if the government were to change and perhaps move toward a decriminalisation view, that might be the time to have the debate. The BMA are currently in consultation on this issue and it may be that public health take up the debate in the future.
- Tom reported on 14 drug deaths during 2012 describing more poly-drug use than previous years. Also increased levels of Gabapentin particular to this area but not nationally. A lot of work is being done with different individuals/agencies to reduce and also follow up NFOD incidents.
- Pursuing a shared initiative with SCDEA, Shetland and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh focused on awareness raising about the devastation caused to the rain forest from the cocaine trade. A stall is planned for Rockness. Tom will circulate details to all for information. Tom

Dawn was concerned at the alcohol seizure figures given for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross as they are particularly low and do not seem to reflect local experience.

**Action:** Tom and Dawn to discuss in more detail.

Tom/  
Dawn

A paper was circulated on HMP Inverness – Model of Practice, Substance Misuse but in the absence of Gordon Morrice the group agreed to note the paper and defer discussion until the next meeting.

Planning for the next HADP Stakeholder Day will need to begin. It is hoped to be able to get Roseanna Cunningham MSP to speak at the event.

**Action:** Members are asked to start thinking about a theme for the day

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**Action:** A date for early June will be sought from the Minister's office and confirmed as soon as possible.

Debbie

#### 4.1.4 **Children & Families**

In addition to the detail set out in the progress report Dawn stated that the new Care First data system will help to improve Children and Families data.

#### 4.2 **Memorandum of Understanding.**

Debbie explained that this paper was due for review in 2011. Although most of the content is still relevant some changes and updates are required e.g. delivery group structure.

Voluntary Sector/Service User representation could be by association with the various work streams without the need for representatives to sit on the strategy group. There is also a need to look at the tenure of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Further clarification will be sought from the Police on plans for future representation on the strategy group.

**Action:** Margaret to further pursue Scottish Police representation on Strategy Group with Julian Innes via the Safer highland leadership group.

Margaret

**Action:** Members are asked to advise of any further amendments to the document.

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### 5 **BUDGET**

5.1 **An update for 9 months to December 2012** was circulated to the meeting by David McRonal. Suzy and David have been working together to ensure the budget is being fully utilised.

The funding report highlights a forecast end of year variance of £204, 596 against a treatment over spend of £215,625 of which £83,900 is already committed for 2013. HADP are asked to agree use of £143,100 funding to meet treatment funding requirements.

**Action:** David and Margaret will decide on a mechanism for ensuring reallocation of monies not spent so HADP is in a stronger position for making decisions on competing priorities.

Margaret  
/ David

## 5.2 Children's Drug and Alcohol Services: Services Funding – report submitted by Bill Alexander –

Bill argued the report highlights under-funding of children and family services from HADP monies. Stating that even if the initiatives outlined in the report were fully funded this would form only 13% of the total HADP budget.

The report also states that In terms of the Youth Action posts the Highland Council seeks the transfer of funding for the 2.6 Health Improvement Coordinators to ensure that the integrated children's service includes health interventions for children and young people who misuse drugs and alcohol, as well as some further redress for the ongoing financial imbalance in the HADP budget.

Margaret said that the focus on fair shares is not something she would agree to take forward. Monies need to be allocated in line with identified need and not on a fair share basis. Perhaps there needs to be consideration given to how monies are spread across the strategy outcomes and effectiveness of how the money is spent but there should also be some cognisance of the overall budget which includes funding partners already receive to address substance misuse related issues directly or indirectly.

In terms of realignment Margaret stated she expects greater detail on the role and function of the posts particularly in relation to improving the interface and transition between adult and children's services.

Along with Nigel Small, Suzy is continuing with restructuring Adult Services and moving towards strategy outcomes in line with her Action Plan. It will be necessary to align the budget and approve the Youth Action posts when this information comes from Suzy. Dawn and Suzy are still to meet to discuss integration of adult and children's services. Consideration to the posts along with the outcomes will be done.

In support of this, Dawn said that the post in the North has been very successful. A gap has been identified in ABI training and she felt that the post should be replicated across Highland as they contain much needed specialist skills for providing the type of intensive support required for children and young people at highest risk of developing dependency problems.

**Action:** A meeting is to be arranged between Dawn and Suzy in the near future to progress these issues.

## 5.3 The draft minutes of the Finance and Commissioning Group

meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013 were circulated.

## **7 FOR INFORMATION AND NOTING**

A Research Paper on Nasal Naloxone as referred to earlier in the meeting was circulated to members for their information.

## **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Tom raised an issue relating to complaints received about individuals “hanging around the corridor” leading to the Harm Reduction Service. Frustration was being experienced by the service at the frequency of police attendance as it appears to have led to clients being discouraged from attending the service. The Police stance is that although they respect harm reduction, they are required to take note of concerns from the wider community.

The situation has also been raised with the landlord for the services premises and may have an impact on the tenancy.

It was suggested that the Service and Police could discuss this matter and Tom agreed to speak to the PACE Group at the Needle Exchange service. Tom

**Action:** Suzy is already dealing with the matter and will request support from HADP if required. Suzy

## **9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 2pm – Board Room, John Dewar Building

Margaret acknowledged that this was both Tom and John’s last ADP meeting prior to their retiring and extended warmest appreciation on behalf of the Group for both their contributions to the HADP.

John expressed his thanks to the Group for their support during his time with them.