



Cynulliad National  
Cenedlaethol Assembly for  
Cymru Wales

**Y Pwyllgor Cyfiawnder  
Cymdeithasol ac Adfywio**

**Social Justice and Regeneration  
Committee**

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Eich cyf / Your ref  
Ein cyf / Our ref

Dyddiad / Date January 2004

Dear Colleague

**SOCIAL JUSTICE AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE  
SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

The Social Justice and Regeneration Committee agreed to carry out a policy review in the field of substance misuse. The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration has indicated the priority she has attached to the prevention and treatments available for people who misuse substances. The Chair and Members of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee have endorsed this and agreed to undertake a comprehensive policy review into this area. It agreed the following Terms of Reference for the Review at its meeting on 3 December 2003.

**Terms of Reference**

To consider the effectiveness of current policies and arrangements for the prevention and treatment of substance misuse giving particular regard to:

*Prevention*

- Identification of best practice in substance misuse education in Wales.
- Assessment of guidance and support necessary to ensure the implementation of best practice in schools and other settings.
- Assessment of action taking to reduce the risk of substance misuse in Wales by means other than education (e.g. within the areas of family support, housing, employment)



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### *Treatment*

- Assessment of the availability of shared care and supervised consumption schemes across Wales and the barriers to recruitment of GPs and pharmacists to these schemes.
- Identification of the key difficulties experienced by people trying to access treatment services, in particular, detoxification and rehabilitation.
- Identification of best practice in reducing waiting times for treatment.

### *Groups effected by substance misuse*

- Availability of services necessary in order to protect and improve the well being of children who have substance misusing families
- Identification of the needs of, and availability of services for, particular groups: children, released prisoners and people with mental health problems.

### *Alcohol*

- Identification of the needs of, and availability of services for, people with alcohol problems
- Assessment of the impact of the focus on illegal drugs, for example from the Home Office, on the provision of services for alcohol misusers
- Assessment of the effectiveness of policy initiatives which address the issue of alcohol availability and 'binge' drinking

## **Invitations on submissions**

The Committee wishes to invite you to contribute to its consideration by providing a written submission setting out your organisation's views on the policies and programmes aimed at tackling substance misuse, including any detailed factual information that may be relevant. There is no prescribed format for submissions, and it is acknowledged that consultees may wish to comment on selected topics only. It is suggested that consultees may wish to concentrate on the following issues:

## **PREVENTION**

### *Educational Programmes*

- What works in substance misuse education? Please comment on your experience and relevant research and evaluation.
- Please identify and comment on any substance misuse education programmes which are currently being delivered.
- Please identify and comment on any substance misuse educational programmes which are available to children and young people outside mainstream education.
- What guidance is available to those responsible for the delivery of substance misuse educational programmes? Is this guidance useful?
- What could be done to improve the effectiveness of substance misuse education in Wales?

### *Influencing Factors*

- What are the main 'risk' factors which make it more likely that someone will misuse substances? Please comment on your experience and relevant research.

- Please identify and comment on services which attempt to address these factors?

## **TREATMENT**

### *The role of primary care professionals in delivering treatment*

- What is the coverage of GP shared care schemes in your area and/or across Wales?
- What are the barriers to establishing shared care schemes and how can these be overcome?
- What is the coverage of supervised consumption services in your area and/or across Wales?
- What are the barriers to establishing supervised consumption services and how can these be overcome?

### *The provision of rehabilitation and detoxification services across Wales*

- Please comment on the availability of detoxification services.
- Please comment on the availability of rehabilitation service.
- What could be done to improve access to detoxification and rehabilitation services?

## **GROUPS EFFECTED BY SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

### *Children*

- Please identify and comment on services which aim to protect and improve the well being of children from substance misusing families.
- Please identify and comment on services available to children who misuse substances.
- How are the children of substance misusing parents and substance misusing children identified? How do they access services?
- What could be done to improve substance misuse services for children and their families?

### *Prisoners*

- What services are available for released prisoners who currently, or have previously misused substances?
- How do released prisoners access these services?
- What could be done to improve substance misuse services for prisoners and former prisoners?

### *People with mental health service needs*

- What specialist services are available for people who misuse substances and have mental health problems?

- How do people access these services?
- What could be done to improve substance misuse services for people with mental health service needs?

## **ALCOHOL**

- What services are available for people who misuse alcohol in your area? How are these services accessed?
- How has the focus on illegal drugs impacted on the provision of services for alcohol misusers?
- What policy initiatives have attempted to address the issue of alcohol availability and 'binge' drinking? How effective have they been in impacting on alcohol use?

## **ENFORCEMENT**

- How does the arrest of drug dealers and the seizure of drugs impact on the use of illegal drugs?

## **PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION**

- How is action to tackle substance misuse co-ordinated locally and across Wales
- What are the benefits and limitations of the current system of planning and co-ordination?

The Committee may, in due course, wish to invite you to give an oral presentation in support of your written submission.

## **Publication of Responses**

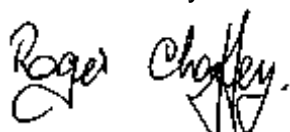
Unless contributors ask for their submission to remain confidential, the Committee intends that all responses will be available for public scrutiny.

## **Timetable**

I would be grateful if you could forward any submission you may wish to make to me by **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2004**.

For your information, the Committee has invited submissions from those on the attached list. In addition, a copy of this letter has been placed on the National Assembly's web-site with an open invitation to submit views.

Yours sincerely



**Roger Chaffey - Clerk – Social Justice and Regeneration Committee**