



**Meeting:** Safer Communities Executive Board  
**Date:** 28 March 2008  
**Subject:** Adult Drug Treatment Plan: Strategic Summary  
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**1. Purpose**

- 1.2** To provide the Board with a strategic overview of the main commissioning intentions for adult drug treatment in 2008/09

**2. Background**

- 2.2.** The DAAT undertake an annual needs assessment which informs the commissioning priorities for adult drug treatment in the year ahead. The attached strategic summary outlines the overall direction, and key priorities. This is further supported by a more detailed action plan. Both documents are now with the National Treatment Agency for final comment before final sign off by the DAAT Chair and Chair of the Joint Commissioning Group for Substance Misuse on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

- 2.3** The strategy and action plan are essentially the means by which we deliver against **PSA 25 – Reduce the Harm Caused by Alcohol and Drugs – underneath which sits N140:**

**The number of problematic drug users recorded as being in effective treatment.\***

**One of our 35 Improvement Targets in the LAA**

- 2.4.** It should be noted that the government define problematic drug users as crack and heroin users. **In terms of the LAA it is only this group of users that will be counted towards, the target.**
- 2.5.** The Adult Drug Pooled Treatment monies are one of the few pots of money that will remain ring fenced until 2011 and will therefore not form part of the Area Based Grant. Young people's substance misuse monies (apart from the treatment element) will be coming down through ABG

### **3. Key Challenges**

- 3.1.** One of the challenges will be to continue to deliver an effective prevention, treatment and re-integration system for drug users against a background of a potential decrease of 27%, (34%) in real terms of the Pooled Drug Treatment budget over the next three years.
- 3.2.** In addition changes in the funding formula whereby twice as much funding is awarded for crack and opiate users entering and being retained in treatment could make it difficult for us to respond to new and emerging patterns of drug use.
- 3.3.** Another potential unintended consequence of the new funding formula is that it could become increasingly difficult to continue to commission services that are not targeted at crack or heroin user's e.g. Cannabis support groups and work with Somali Community on Khat. Tier two, and some of the wrap-around support services which are crucial to recovery could also be compromised.
- 3.4.** Work is underway to safeguard against this and is more fully detailed in the action plan. It is however crucial that the partnership begin to address the ETE, and housing needs of this client group in a more considered way – if we are to have any lasting effect on tackling the drugs issues in the borough.

### **4. Recommendations:**

- 4.1.** To note the contribution the Adult Drug Treatment Plan makes towards wider community safety, wellbeing and public health issues in the borough.

**For a copy of Drug Treatment Action Plan contact:  
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