

# DRUGS NEWSLETTER

November-December 2009 – N°8 Issue

## Contents:

[News and updates](#)  
[Guidance and practice](#)  
[Funding/Resources](#)  
[Events and campaigns](#)  
[Feedback](#)

## News and updates

### Calling for experts

The EU is calling for expressions of interest by external experts with at least 7 year's relevant experience to take part in the evaluation of project proposals in the field of drug prevention and information. Working as an expert on evaluation of proposals gives people a lot of insight in the Commission evaluation process which will allow the expert to advise their organisation on eventual future applications.

Further information on how to become an external evaluator of the Commission, please visit [http://ec.europa.eu/justice\\_home/funding/experts/funding\\_experts\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/experts/funding_experts_en.htm) (Go to heading: 2007/S 140-172522) - (More EU news in the [Funding/Resources](#) section below).



### Supporting grandparents raising their grandchildren\*

The Adfam grandparent carers project is looking at existing services in London and developing new ways of supporting grandparents who are bringing up their grandchildren because of parental substance misuse. You can read more about the project at [http://www.adfam.org.uk/?content=our\\_work\\_gpp](http://www.adfam.org.uk/?content=our_work_gpp).

### One million (!) DIP drug tests

The milestone of the 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> DIP drug test has now been reached. The test for Class A drug use was administered at the Bridge Street custody suite, Sheffield, on 14 October. On that occasion, the test conducted by South Yorkshire Police staff was negative.

Since 2003, DIP drug testing has been expanded and now it is carried out in 174 custody suites in 21 police forces across England and Wales. More than 240,000 tests for Class A substances are now conducted every year and around a third of tests are positive. The full article on the 'celebration' of the one-million<sup>th</sup> DIP drug test is available on the DIP e-bulletin at <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-events/latest-news/dip-one-million-drug-test.html>.



### New UK Anti-Doping Agency opens

The UK's new Independent National Anti-Doping Agency (UKAD) opened its doors on Monday 14 December. UKAD will take on responsibility from UK Sport for the UK's anti-doping programme, including educating athletes and their support personnel, ensuring sports comply with anti-doping rules, and testing athletes. In addition, UKAD will have responsibility for managing anti-doping cases and presenting evidence of potential doping violations to an independent tribunal for adjudication. It will also have the ability to share information with law enforcement agencies in order to tackle those that traffic and supply doping substances. An information sharing gateway is already in place with the [UK Borders Agency](#) and UKAD is discussing a similar gateway with the [Serious and Organised Crime Agency](#).

UKAD is an active participant in the global fight against doping and recognises the need to take an international approach. Partnerships with the [World Anti-Doping Agency \(WADA\)](#), [UNESCO](#) (2006 UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sport), the [Association of National Anti-Doping Organisations](#), the Council of Europe and the International Anti-Doping Agreement are integral to UKAD's international activities. UKAD will build on the excellent work carried out by [UK Sport](#) to ensure the UK is best-placed to tackle doping in sport in the run-up to [London 2012](#) and beyond.

Further information is available on UKAD's website at [www.ukad.org.uk](http://www.ukad.org.uk).

Season's greetings to all our readers, contributors and partners!



## **Progress on DIP Review implementation**

The DIP Review Implementation Programme continues to make good progress on the major recommendations identified from the DIP Review. A series of regional workshops have been organised to introduce the DIP Operational Model. Seven of these have already taken place and the feedback has been positive and constructive.

The Programme continues to receive a high level of interest and support from delivery partners. Over 120 people volunteered or were nominated to take part in Expert Panels and the project team was able to accommodate around 50 per cent of these in four expert panels considering issues from communications through to funding. More information about the work of the [DIP Review Implementation Programme](#) is available online.

## **Guidance and practice**

### **Implementing integrated drugs market reduction initiatives (IDMRI)**

Last month we published a guide for local partnerships and service managers working to tackle entrenched neighbourhood drugs markets and the harms they cause to local communities. The guide is based on Operation Reduction and Operation Iceberg in a case study format. Both operations were led by local partnerships that successfully disrupted such markets and made the affected communities safer from the criminal activity they fostered. The guide is downloadable at <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/dip/IDMRI-guide-for-practitioners-09>.

### **Evidence led solutions: Evaluation of Operation Reduction June 2008**

We also published a report to analyse and share practice from Operation Reduction, a recognised example of effective partnership working which used the Street Level Up enforcement approach in Brighton and Hove (East Sussex).

Operation Reduction was established in November 2005 to tackle both supply of and demand for drugs in the city through a particular group of individuals. The operation saw increasing numbers of drug misusers in treatment and increasing drug seizures and charges against dealers. The partnership brought together a broad range of services and partners to achieve this, and positive outcomes included increases in community perceptions and confidence in local policing on drug-related crime and antisocial behaviour issues. Read the report at <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/dip/ELS-final-report-june08>

### **New guide for women on life without re-offending**

Women in the Criminal Justice System have been giving a helping hand to support other women in successfully turning away from crime after they complete their sentence. A guide, called [More than just surviving the Criminal System](#) has been written by a former offender to help other women understand how to move forward after their sentence and achieve successful rehabilitation.

The initiative was based on the theory that many women fail to respond and continue to offend because they do not understand the criminal justice system and what is required of them. It takes women step-by-step through the criminal justice process from arrest to being taken into custody, providing advice on what to expect when they arrive at prison, the support they will receive, the skills they can learn and how to cope on release without re-offending.

The guide was produced in a partnership initiative involving Northumbria Probation Area, NEPACS, Offender Health North East and by the team running a locally-based website – [www.hiwecanhelp.co.uk](http://www.hiwecanhelp.co.uk) – which was set up to help people whose lives are affected by drugs.

### **‘Routes to recovery’ series**

Latest guidance and practice resources in the ‘Routes to recovery’ series published by the NTA are now available at <http://www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/documents/RoutesSummary0709.pdf>. These publications include practice guides on:

- diversity,
- towards successful treatment completion,
- clinical governance,
- final Back To Education Initiative manual and
- TOP bulletin on change to the reporting frequency.



## New guidance - Moves to provide a greater protection for children living with drug addicts\*

In November 2009 the Department for Children, Schools and Families hosted the first national 'Think Family' conference, bringing together professionals from a range of agencies including drug and alcohol treatment services, family and parenting services as well as those working with offenders.



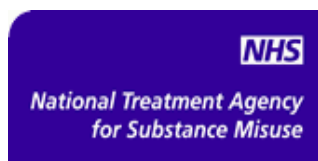
The aim of the conference and Government's 'Think Family' strategy is to encourage adults and children's services to work together alongside the voluntary sector and other partners to deliver services that recognise the family context of their clients; and that they are in a position to make referrals between services and respond to the needs of the whole family.

New thought provoking guidance was published at the Think Family conference to encourage strategic managers of adult drug and alcohol treatment services to sign up to producing joint local protocols with children's and families services. Developing these local protocols will enable local agencies to work together in a way that supports common aims and targets, with protocols cementing good practice and helping to build it up where it may be needed.

The aim must be to ensure that those families with a drug and/or alcohol dependency, which may lead to possible safeguarding issues, get the support they need to change. Currently the extent to which parent and family services understand or can refer to treatment services may be patchy and treatment services in turn not always feel confident in discussing with clients whether they have parenting responsibilities – local protocols will help to facilitate access to treatment for those families most in need.

Local protocols will aim to build relationships between the different agencies and seek to establish clear and consistent referral pathways, better information sharing between agencies and clear criteria for accessing treatment into support. Where there are already effective protocols and established referral pathways into treatment in place this has had positive results. The Family Intervention Projects (FIP), which are the operational model of 'Think Family', have already shown that the intensive whole family approach works. FIP research shows that the projects are successful in reducing levels of anti-social behaviour; getting more children back into school; improving health as well as reducing drug & alcohol problems. Research shows that the number of families who experienced drug or alcohol problems reduced by 47% following a FIP intervention.

Through this guidance we hope that more local protocols will be put in place between drug and alcohol treatment services and family and parenting services that will lead to an increase in the numbers of families who really need treatment services in order to reduce their dependency being able to access it.



The NTA/DCSF/DH guidance on local protocols is available on-line at [http://www.nta.nhs.uk/.../yp\\_drug\\_alcohol\\_treatment\\_protocol\\_1109.pdf](http://www.nta.nhs.uk/.../yp_drug_alcohol_treatment_protocol_1109.pdf).

Think Family toolkit is available on-line at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/thinkfamily>.

## Funding/Resources

### EU project funding bid

The European Union has a huge pool of funding potentially available to delivery partners including for tackling drugs and crime projects. Fresh bid calls have been issued for:

- operating grants from the 2010 'Drug Prevention and Information' programme for the financial year 2010/11. *This bid just closed on 17 December – Best wishes of success to all who have submitted bids following the circulation of this information ahead of the newsletter.*
- Annual Work Programmes 2010 funding under the Prevention of and fight against crime (ISEC) programme for delivery partners (deadlines vary according to the area bids are placed under).

To check out for further information on EU funding opportunities please visit our website at <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/drug-strategy/local-implementation/eu-funding-programmes/>.



### Call for application - European Drug Prevention Prize 2010

The Pompidou Group is launching its European Drug Prevention Prize 2010 and calling for projects to apply. This 4<sup>th</sup> Prize will be awarded at the Ministerial Conference taking place on 3-4 November 2010 in Strasbourg. For the first time, projects from [all 47 Council of Europe member states](#) are invited to

participate. These projects must be currently running, managed by young people, targeting children and young people and be innovative in as many ways as possible. Three youth projects will be rewarded for their work and will each receive a trophy, a diploma and the sum of €5,000.

The applications should reach the Pompidou Group Secretariat by 31 March 2010, by e-mail to [preventionprize2010@coe.int](mailto:preventionprize2010@coe.int).



### Capital awards

The Offender-based Interventions Unit – which is the central unit responsible for delivery of DIP and the Prolific & other Priority Offender (PPO) Programme – has awarded £1.34 million to partnerships across England & Wales for capital projects in 2009-10. The projects will support the infrastructure and enhanced delivery of both crime reduction programmes. Successful bids included projects to provide the emergency accommodation of offenders and to facilitate co-location of partners.

### More areas seek self-funded dip status

The Home Office is supporting a number of partnership areas considering a move to the full suite of DIP interventions on a self-funded basis. Such a move includes a move to Drug Testing on Arrest and other associated interventions, including Required Assessment, which help to grip more drug-misusing offenders. A number of areas are already developing a business case. ObIU is also offering tailored support to interested Vigilance areas that do not already have these provisions.

Revised guidance for areas considering such a move is being published and circulated to partners this month and will also be published in the DIP section of the [Home Office Drugs website](#).

### Where to browse for new data and research published by the Home Office

Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study (DTORS) reports have been published on the Home Office website alongside other research across a wide range of issues i.e. crime, drug seizures, drug treatment which may be of interest to partnerships. If you are unsure where to look for data on issues of interest to your field, you may find relevant references at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/>.



### Events and campaigns

#### Annual Drug & Alcohol Professionals (FDAP) conference – 13 January 2010 – London

This event is advertised on the FDAP website at <http://www.fdap.org.uk/fdapevents/conf2009.html>.

#### Alliance national service-user involvement conference – 4 February 2010 – Birmingham

This year's annual conference, '*Right here, right now*', is aimed at service users, treatment providers, policy makers, DAAT coordinators, commissioners and drug and alcohol workers, to share experiences and ideas around service user involvement. The event is advertised at <http://www.cjwellings.com/righthererightnow/>.

### Feedback

We value your feedback and contributions. **Thank you** for all that we receive. In our aim to have all regions represented but for the newsletter to remain concise and user-friendly, we may edit contributions. However, the 'featurette\*' format allows for fuller contributions to be kept and we include contact details for readers to be able to obtain further information.

In autumn the [DIP e-bulletin](#) and [Drugs Newsletter](#) conducted a survey amongst our readers for a proposed merger of both publications and our distribution lists. All the responses received were in support of the merger, which will consist in the creation of a distinct DIP section for all DIP updates and messages, **within the Drugs Newsletter**. However, an opt-out message will be circulated again should you wish your contact details not to be added to the combined distribution list.

We will also take forward points and suggestions made during the survey. Please continue to send feedback and contributions to [DrugsEvents@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DrugsEvents@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

To have colleagues and partner services' details added to/deleted from to our distribution list, or to amend your details, please email [Ayuba Aleshe](mailto:Ayuba Aleshe) or [DrugsEvents@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DrugsEvents@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).