

# ***Information/Discussion Paper***

## **Social and community Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 10 January 2007**

### **Drugs study review update**

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

#### **1. Why has this come to scrutiny?**

- 1.1 This note provides an update on the progress of the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee's drugs study review group who were tasked with undertaking a review of drug problems and issues in Cheltenham

#### **2. Summary of the Issue**

- 2.1 The drugs study review group was established by the O+S Committee following the production of a report which was commissioned by the previous Cabinet to look at Drugs in Cheltenham and agency perceptions (June 2006)
- 2.2 The review group was tasked with reviewing this report and its recommendations, as well as looking more closely at drug issues and problems in Cheltenham with a view of bringing a series of recommendations back to the Committee.
- 2.3 The drugs study review group agreed its terms of reference on 31 July 2006 and agreed to hold meetings with a number of agencies in order to discuss their enforcement and intervention roles, along with their own perceptions of current drug problems and issues in Cheltenham
- 2.4 On the 28 September the drugs study review group met with a number of agencies involved in drug intervention work, with representatives attending from:
- The Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT,
  - The Gloucestershire DAAT team,
  - Gloucestershire Drugs and Alcohol Service (GDAS)
  - Cheltenham Substance Action Group (SAG)
  - The Gloucestershire Youth Service

- Cheltenham Regeneration Partnership
- Gloucestershire Local Education Authority (LEA)

**2.5** Having explored the work of these agencies, the review group now needs to look at how the council can complement this work, with the view of interventions designed to reduce drug and alcohol related issues in Cheltenham.

**3. Next Steps - possible next steps for the committee to consider eg potential witnesses, further report, site visit etc.**

**3.1** The drugs study review group met on 18 December with representatives from the Gloucestershire Police and the Cheltenham Crime and Disorder Partnership (CDRP) to look at drugs enforcement issues in Cheltenham.

These agencies are the key agencies involved in drugs enforcement, and are already part way into an initiative in respect of reducing alcohol related violence which is increasing in Cheltenham.

**3.2** Following the meeting on the 18 December, the drugs review group will formulate its recommendations, which will seek to complement the work of the agencies involved in addressing drug and alcohol issues in Cheltenham, and its recommendations will subsequently be presented to the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their consideration at their meeting in April 2007.

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<b>Background Papers</b>	Drugs in Cheltenham: A report on agency perceptions in Cheltenham. Report produced the University of Gloucestershire – June 2006
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<b>Accountability</b>	Cabinet Member Stronger and Safer Communities
<b>Scrutiny Function</b>	Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee