

# ***Information/Discussion Paper***

## **Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 2nd April 2007**

### **Second Interim Report of the Drugs Study Review Group**

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

- 1.1 The attached report (Appendix A) presents the findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Drugs Study Review Group following its review of the drugs issues in Cheltenham. Cllr. Diggory Seacome, spokesperson for the review group, will provide an oral presentation to accompany this report.

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

- 2.1 The drugs study review group was established in July 2006 by the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 2.2 The review group was tasked with:

(1) reviewing the findings of the University of Gloucestershire's report: Drugs in Cheltenham (April 2006) which looked at national and local drug use and at the perceptions of drug taking with a number of agencies in Cheltenham.

(2) looking more closely at drugs issues in Cheltenham with the view of bringing a series of recommendations back to the Committee for consideration.

- 2.3 To support the review, the review group conducted two meetings with a number of agencies involved in drugs intervention and drugs enforcement work, in order to test the findings of the university's report and to determine the full extent of drugs issues in Cheltenham and the level of work which is currently being undertaken by these agencies to help combat or alleviate these issues.

- 2.4 The report sets out the findings of the drugs study review, highlights the perceptions and thoughts of a number of agencies involved in drugs prevention and enforcement work in Cheltenham, and sets out a number of actions and opportunities which the council may wish to consider adopting in order to help it alleviate or combat drug issues in Cheltenham.

#### **3. Summary of evidence/information**

- 3.1 The attached report presents the findings and recommendations of the drugs study review group.

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

**4.1** The Committee needs to consider how it wishes to progress this matter, and as to how best the Council could consider implementing any of the recommendations proposed by the review group, and subsequently by this Committee.

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<b>Background Papers</b>	University of Gloucestershire's: Drugs in Cheltenham: a report on agency perceptions in Cheltenham (April 2006)  Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 10 January 2007 – Drugs study review update
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<b>Accountability</b>	Cabinet Member Stronger and Safer Communities
<b>Scrutiny Function</b>	Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee