

## Action on Alcohol and Drugs

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### The City of Edinburgh Council

1 May 2008

#### Purpose of report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the future arrangements for the leadership of the Action Team on Alcohol and Drugs in Edinburgh.

#### Main report

- 2 On 10 June 2004 Council approved my recommendation for the appointment of a more permanent Chair to what was then referred to as the Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Action Team (EDAAT). The key responsibility of the Chair, independent of any service department within the Council, Police Board or NHS Operating Division was "to provide the strong strategic leadership, vision and direction required to tackle drug and alcohol problems in the city".
- 3 Prior to this time the EDAAT had been chaired on a rotating basis by the major groups represented in its membership (Appendix 1). Mr Tom Wood took up the position as Chair upon his retirement from the post of Deputy Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police in February 2005. This was originally intended to be an interim, part-time arrangement for two years but was subsequently extended by a further 15 months. Mr Wood has now intimated his intention to leave this role at the end of May 2008.
- 4 During the period of his tenure, substantial achievements have been made and these have been reported regularly in Quarterly Updates and Annual Reports to members. I would also remind members that in May 2006 Mr Wood was also appointed Chair of the Scottish Association of Alcohol and Drug Teams.
- 5 I would like to thank Mr Wood for his considerable efforts in further consolidating and taking forward the work of the Team during the last three years. He has agreed to make a short presentation to the Policy and Strategy Committee on 13 May 2008, outlining his views on the current position on drugs and alcohol in Edinburgh.

- 6 In preparation for Mr Wood's departure and in accordance with Scottish Government guidance, I have held discussions with the Chief Executive of NHS Lothian, the Chief Constable and other senior managers represented on the Team which is now referred to as Action on Alcohol and Drugs in Edinburgh (AAD). We have agreed that Peter Gabbitas, Director of Health and Social Care, will take over as Chair of AAD upon Mr Wood's departure.
- 7 Members may recall that a few months ago I reported to Council on the establishment of a "Chief Officers Group" for Edinburgh (COG), which is a requirement of Scottish government guidance. I indicated at the time that the COG would sit above the Child Protection Committee, the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and, probably, the AAD. The changes set out in this report are consistent with that framework.
- 8 In an important related national review, work by drug and alcohol teams has been assessed and the issues are detailed in a report that is currently with Scottish Ministers. A new national drug strategy is also expected in the Spring, with a detailed action plan. I will be reporting further on these matters as part of an overall progress report on AAD within the next two months.
- 9 In the light of these changes, the new Chair will consider the future role and location of the dedicated team that supports the work of the AAD. As part of this process staff will be fully consulted.

### **Financial Implications**

- 10 There are no financial implications arising from these proposals.

### **Recommendations**

- 11 It is recommended that the Council:
- i) thanks Mr Wood for his considerable efforts in leading the AAD during the last three years;
  - ii) notes that I have asked Mr Wood to make a short presentation to the Policy and Strategy Committee on 13 May 2008;
  - iii) notes the appointment of Peter Gabbitas, Director of Health and Social Care, as the new Chair of the AAD; and

iv) notes my intention to bring a further progress report to the Policy and Strategy Committee, to include proposals for the future role and location of the AAD support team.



**Tom Aitchison**  
Chief Executive

9/4/08.

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Appendices	Appendix 1: Current membership of Action on Alcohol and Drugs
Contact/tel/Email	Ian Raven – PSP Division, Corporate Services Tel: 0131-469 3991 Email: <a href="mailto:ian.raven@edinburgh.gov.uk">ian.raven@edinburgh.gov.uk</a>
Wards affected	All
Background Papers	None

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP OF ACTION ON ALCOHOL AND DRUGS  
(April 2008)**

Tom Wood (Chair)

David Small (Edinburgh CHP – Vice Chair)

Mike Massaro-Mallinson (NHS Lothian)

Alistair Watt (Health & Social Care)

Christina Burnett (Children & Families)

Lindsay Geddes (Jobcentreplus)

Martin Bonnar (CDAL)

Martin Gordon (Lothian & Borders Police)

Colin Beck (Health & Social Care)

Frank McGrail (Children & Families)

Dan Gunn (Scottish Prison Service)

Graeme McArthur (Scottish Drugs Forum)

Graeme Stenhouse (Treasurer)

Jim Rafferty (Capital City Partnership)

Betty Bott (District Procurator Fiscal)