

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services**

**Social Justice Committee: 8 November 2006**

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**Subject: Integrated Care Planning for Addiction Services**

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1** This report provides an overview of Care Planning for individuals with addiction issues and highlights, for the committee, national recognition through the Scottish Executive's Improvement Service, including an investment of £50,000.

**2 Background**

- 2.1** Those involved in supporting individuals with addiction issues regularly draw together a range of services as required. This is achieved through the establishment of a *Care Plan*, developed directly with the individual.
- 2.2** For many individuals the Care Plan will include specialist addiction services alongside a broader range of services, including housing, literacy, employment, primary health care, mental health care and services for children and families and criminal justice.
- 2.3** Co-ordinating all of these services relies upon structures to develop and monitor the Care Plan over time, and it relies upon all partner agencies working together.
- 2.4** Whilst there are strong commitments to this co-ordinated approach, within addiction services integrated care planning is at an early stage of development, and the weight of administration falls almost exclusively upon social work.
- 2.5** More than the burden of the task, the sense of ownership across partner agencies needs to be developed, and is being addressed through the West Dunbartonshire Alcohol and Drug Forum, under the leadership of the Senior Social Worker for Addictions.

**3 Main Issues**

**3.1 Ethos of Services**

West Dunbartonshire Addiction Services have been built upon partnership commitments that services will be:

- Client focused and needs led
- Holistic and comprehensive
- Seamless

- 3.2 These commitments derive from ADAT (Alcohol and Drug Action Teams) structures within Greater Glasgow & Clyde and reflect the work of the West Dunbartonshire Health Improvement and Social Justice Partnership and its supporting Joint Strategy Group (Joint Future structures).
- 3.3 These commitments presume a service integrated across partner organisations as well as internally within each organisation. An integrated service is delivered through a *tiered* approach. This approach presumes needs are addressed at the lowest possible tier, and a reliance upon generalist (non-addiction) services which encounter addictions (such as youth, mental health, acute and primary health care, homelessness and criminal justice services).
- 3.4 Through partnership working, it has been possible to plan seamless services collaboratively. The West Dunbartonshire Alcohol and Drug Forum (ADF) underpins a strategic approach across partners, supported by the Addictions Treatment and Support Group which operationalises joint working. The ADF feeds directly into ADAT structures and local joint planning mechanisms.
- 3.5 In line with best practice guidance from the Effective Interventions Unit (EIU) (***Integrated Care Pathways for Drug Users***, October 2002), West Dunbartonshire partners have modelled addiction services around a Care Pathway approach with the service user at the centre. This work began in April 2005 and is part of ongoing developments. The Care Pathway acknowledges the need for multiple service contributions, at differing levels.
- 3.6 The key to connecting the range of services for any individual is a single *Care Plan*, developed with the client and all relevant services.
- 3.7 **Developing Care Planning**  
In West Dunbartonshire, tools exist to develop ***integrated care plans*** across service providers. At the centre of the integrated approach is a *Single Shared Assessment* (SSA), which includes a care planning structure. SSA's are used across all the specialist addiction services as well as other generalist services.
- 3.8 Some protocols exist between service areas, including an agreed protocol between housing/homelessness services and addiction services. An information sharing protocol allows smooth flow of information between NHS, local authority and voluntary sector providers. This also assists joint allocation arrangements between services.
- 3.9 Integrated Care Planning relies upon structures to develop not only the Care Plan, but to monitor the Care Plan over time. In West Dunbartonshire, addiction services, have, over the past year and in liaison with partner organisations, taken forward work in the development of local Integrated Care Planning and Care Management. Whilst the weight of local administration falls primarily upon social work, we need to acknowledge that partner organisations will have specific training needs to enable them to take ownership and have greater involvement in Integrated Care Planning.

**3.10** The development of Care Planning requires a shared commitment to all aspects of the process.

**3.11 Recognition by the Improvement Service**

The Improvement Service which was launched by the Scottish Executive in 2006 aims to develop good practice across Scotland and allow models of service development to be shared across public sector services. This was seen as an ideal opportunity to access funding which would allow us to develop appropriate support structures and share good practice and views regarding Integrated Care Planning throughout all partner agencies.

**3.12** Following a bid by West Dunbartonshire partners in March 2006, a proposal to develop Integrated Care Planning in Addiction Services was awarded (up to) £50,000 as a one-off development award.

Funding will allow:

- The appointment of (temporary) administrative staff to assist teams new to the administration of Care Planning.
- Staff training in Care Planning and allied skills, such as Motivational Interviewing techniques
- Infrastructure costs (IT)
- Consultancy assistance to develop interagency protocols.

Coupled with the award, local partners will be responsible for disseminating information about local developments.

**4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** There will be a short-term administrative post created.

**5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** These are additional funds.

**6. Conclusions**

**6.1** The integration of care planning across partner agencies is the most appropriate way to ensure a co-ordinated and efficient response to individual need.

**6.2** The West Dunbartonshire Alcohol and Drug Forum continues to support the development of Care Planning across partner agencies.

**6.3** This one-off investment by the Improvement Service will allow the pace of development to quicken.

## **7. Recommendations**

### **7.1** Committee is asked to note developments.

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**Background Papers:**

- None

**Wards Affected:** All wards