

UTTLESFORD ALCOHOL AND DRUG STRATEGY GROUP held at 12.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 16 APRIL 2003

Present:- Canon Chris Bishop (Chair)
Cherry Ann Baptiste West Essex Drug and Alcohol Team (CDAT)
Andrew Broughton – R P S Rainer
Don Cahill – Essex Police
Darren Connew – Community Development Officer (Drugs) UDC
Rachel Hutchinson – Uttlesford District Council
Alexa Jarvis – Student shadowing Caroline Skinner – Primary Care Trust
Catharine Roberts – Secretary
Caroline Skinner – Primary Care Trust
Cheryl Smith – West Essex Drug and Alcohol Team (CDAT)
Rob Smithies – Cambridge Drug and Alcohol Service
Steve Sparrow – Licensing Officer
John Starr – Essex County Youth Service
Councillor A C Streeter – Uttlesford District Council
Andrew Thompson – ADAS
Tracy Wallis – Essex Drug Action Team
Susannah Westwood – Supporting People Officer
Ann Wiseall – Essex Drug Action Team

412 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Jim Green, Donna Martin, Elaine McGuinness, Chris White and John Whittaker.

413 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 12 February 2003 were agreed and signed as a correct record subject to the deletion of the third paragraph in Minute 411

414 PRESENTATION ON APPROPRIATE ADULT SCHEME

The Chairman introduced Jane Alders, who was to give this presentation.

She outlined the history and purposes of the Royal Philanthropic Society from which the Appropriate Adult Scheme had sprung, and described the different types of support offered to clients pursuant to the provisions of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. The role of the appropriate adult was to make sure that clients understood their rights, that their rights were adhered to and that a relevant person was informed of the client's situation.

The Scheme shared databases with the emergency social services duty teams and the youth offending teams. Volunteers had a thorough and demanding training, and the Police held the Service in high regard.

Jane Alders answered questions from Group members about funding of the Service, and the Chairman thanked her for her presentation.

415 **SUB-GROUP CHAIR'S REPORT FROM CSAT**

Rachel Hutchinson and John Starr had attended the last meeting of CSAT and reported to the Group on the schools competition to design a logo and slogan to promote CSAT.

CSAT was now in the second year of a three year strategy. Peter Pearson, the Head of Community Safety at Essex County Council, was taking his turn as Chairman of CSAT.

Home Office funding streams for community safety were to be changed, becoming one stream with slightly less funds. More information might be required for project bids which had to be submitted by May 2003. If funds remained unallocated, however, a second round of bidding would be invited.

416 **COUNTY BEST VALUE REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION**

The Group was informed that a Best Value Review of Community Safety had been conducted across the whole County but only with respect to drugs and alcohol. A two star rating had been awarded.

The Implementation Plan was accessible on the Essex County Council website. Members help was required in suggesting, valuing and justifying projects. Observations were also needed from all on the Implementation Plan and suggestions for any improvements, by the end of April.

The deadline for bids to the Home Office for one-off funding was 28 May 2003.

417 **EDUCATION SUB-GROUP**

John Starr reported on efforts made to encourage schools to support the Schools Drug Education Project. Sessions had taken place at the Helena Romanes School and activities were planned for Youth Centres. A repeat was planned of the very successful PHSE Day held last year at Felsted school.

John Starr and Steve Sparrow stressed that alcohol was a severe and dangerous problem among young people. School heads seemed to be reluctant to admit that it was a problem and some children and adults seemed to regard alcohol as not a drug so OK. Members mentioned incidents involving pupils of particular schools.

The Chairman suggested that Ofsted inspections would make schools more receptive to this subject. Meantime he asked John Starr to carry out an appraisal of what methods worked best to deliver the Groups message about alcohol to schools. Andrew Thomson and Steve Sparrow confirmed that under age drinkers generally obtained alcohol from the village pub. Members felt, however that pursuing the supply which would only move it elsewhere. It

was thought more useful to tackle the attitudes which promoted drinking among young people, including “alcopops “ and the culture of going out to get drunk by way of entertainment.

418 **FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE**

John Starr gave an update on this project.

The proposed concept was huge and expensive, so to avoid the likely possibility of the relevant “Essex Childrens Fund” funds being “lost” they were going to be used to support 5-13 year olds through ADAS. Possibilities were being investigated of renting rooms in Clarence House, Thaxted, and/or placing a mobile worker in schools or GPs surgeries. Funding was available to support the scheme for one year only until March 2004.

419 **ADSG ACTION PLAN 2003/04**

Andrew Thomson asked that the Family Support Centre be included in this Plan but was informed that the scheme did not fall within the treatment category so need for the scheme, analogous to housing related support need, would have to be shown.

Cheryl Smith stressed that a much larger treatment item was required for young people of 16 and older.

420 **NATIONAL ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY**

It was agreed that when the Strategy was issued a sub-group should be established to deal with matters arising under it.

421 **PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

John Starr gave a progress report on the skatepark project and Chris Bishop congratulated him on the work to date. A design was being prepared and funding sought.

Andrew Broughton and Darren Connew reported on the development of school information points. A press launch was expected before the end of May. Members asked for inquiries to be made whether the October meeting of the Group could be combined with a visit by members to one of the schools to see the new information points.

Ann Wiseall reported on the activities of the DAT including the national Young People and Parents campaign. Tracy Wallis answered Members questions about recording of cross-partnership data, and Chris Bishop suggested that Clifford Painter should be asked to present the Community Crime Profile for the information of Members at the next meeting. Rachel

Hutchinson stated that as Community Safety Officer she had access to this for District Information.

The meeting ended at 2.23 pm.