

# Aberdeen City Drugs, Alcohol & BBV Forum

The Forum aims to find out, represent and respond to the views of people affected by, or concerned about, drugs, alcohol and BBVs in Aberdeen

## FORUM STRATEGY GROUP

Note of meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2009  
Drugs Action, 7 Hadden Street, at 11.00am

**Present:** Marie Chapman, Aberdeen Foyer; Fraser Hoggan, ADP; Steve Hughes, Aberdeen Cyrenians; Senga MacDonald, (Chair and minutes) Drugs Action

**Apologies:** Gary Dawson, Aberdeen City Council

1. **Minutes of last meeting.** The last meeting focused on planning for the Forum Event on Drug Deaths in Aberdeen. There was therefore no separate record of the meeting.
2. **ADP Update.** Fraser gave an update on the ADP, highlighting the following key points:
  - The Forum Event was met with a positive response and in particular was supported by the ADP Chair, Richard Carey.
  - Richard Carey advised the ADP meeting that NHS Grampian is supportive of the recommendation to take forward the introduction of Naloxone. This has already been raised with the Medicines Group and Drug Related Deaths Group and is being taken forward by Senga and Fraser on behalf of the Forum.
  - At the last ADP meeting when there were presentations from Quay Services and Street Pastors, it was agreed that there should be one presentation at each future ADP meeting. This may also tie in with a visit by the ADP members to the relevant service. There was no agreement reached at the ADP regarding how services would be selected.
  - Future ADP papers will go on the website as soon as they are available, with the exception of the 'unapproved minute'. The minute will be made available following approval at the meeting and any subsequent correction made.
  - The next ADP newsletter will include summaries of the Forum Event, the Sexual Exploitation Seminar and the partnership Black & Ethnic Minorities project involving the ADP, Drugs Action and MEAL.

### **ACTIONS:**

- ***Fraser to speak to Sandy Kelman to clarify any changes to the minute of the last ADP before this goes onto the Forum website.***
- ***Senga to contact Andrew Robinson (SMS) to discuss the way forward.***
- ***Senga to email members regarding interest in service presentations.***

3. **Forum Event – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009 – Action Plan.** Those present had seen the Summary of the Event and Action Plan on the website. There is also useful information to inform future events on the evaluation forms. This is still to be collated. Senga advised the meeting of progress since the event including 1) a positive meeting with the ADP chair, Richard Carey, 2) the support from the ADP and 3) a meeting with the three Aberdeenshire Forum Chairs.

The Action Plan was agreed and updated – see attached.

It was agreed that the Action Plan will form the basis for the future work of the Forum.

#### **ACTIONS:**

- **Senga and Fraser to get together to write to managers in key organisations regarding feedback from the Forum and to seek commitment to address related issues. It was agreed that this would be framed around the recovery agenda. Key individuals will include the following:**

Aberdeen City Council: Murray Leys and Fred McBride (ADP members), Lesley Simpson (Criminal Justice Social Work), Marie Ann MacDonald (Children & Families), and relevant managers from Community Mental Health, Community Learning, Housing and Education (to be identified)

NHSGrampian: Karen Gunn, (Substance Misuse Service), Fiona Stuart and Lucy Skea (Pharmacy), Accident and Emergency Service

Voluntary Sector: Angus McCurrach (Drugs Action), Scott Baxter (Aberdeen Cyrenians), Jim McDonald (Phoenix Futures), Ken Milroy (Aberdeen Foyer) and Alcohol Support

Whilst the statutory services were the main area of concern, it was felt that the above voluntary sector organisations should be included and additional responses will be welcomed through the Forum membership.

- **All Strategy members to look at the Health and Homelessness website and feed back views on whether it would be sufficient for the Forum to create a link to the service information.**
  - **In order to address issues around Emergency Services response to overdose it is proposed that Senga & Fraser set up a meeting with representatives from the Police, Ambulance service, Dr. Andrew Robinson (Chair of DRD Group), and service users to further explore concerns around this issue.**
  - **Fraser to contact SDF to discuss the possibility of a Training for Trainers programme to be set up for overdose including Naloxone.**
4. **Website update.** Senga updated the meeting on the developments and use of the website. It had also received positive feedback and is now being used regularly to advertise vacancies. In future, ADP papers will be included on the website, making it easier for members to contribute to the wider consultation process. It was suggested that there should be an evaluation of the website towards the end of the year. This will be included on the Action Plan.

5. **Finance.** The meeting was informed that the bank balance stands at £8,455.11. This includes deduction of the cost of the venue for the forum event and guest speaker expenses. Additional costs have still to be paid for participant packs and materials, website development and maintenance to date. A financial report will be available for the next meeting.
6. **Forum development / Strategy group membership / Future plans.** It was agreed that the organisation of the Forum through regular meetings is not working in terms of fulfilling the Forum's main objectives to represent service providers including front line staff and service users. It was therefore agreed that we should take a proposal to the next full meeting to a) strengthen the Forum Strategy Group and include drug users / ex users and family members b) replace forum meetings with specific events and develop links between the Strategy Group and service user groups including family support groups c) explore options to develop effective representation of the voluntary sector.

Alongside the development of the strategy group, the need to develop budget priorities was highlighted for the future. Current costs mainly relate to the website development and maintenance and this is manageable in the short term within current finance. However, once future plans are outlined it will be necessary to approach the ADP for financial support.

**ACTIONS:**

- **Senga to contact service users who are actively involved in Unite and the National Drug Related Deaths service user forum and Drugs Action's Family Support Group.**
- **Senga to contact Paul Hannan, who is currently the voluntary sector representative on the ADP from ACVO.**

**7. AOCB**

A NADA Acu-detox Training Workshop has been organised for week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September 09. There are still places available. Bryan Duncan, Drugs Action should be contacted regarding this.