

# <sup>1</sup>Scrutiny Working Group Drug & Alcohol Action Team Briefing Notes

The DAAT is based at Time Square with the majority of commissioned services delivered from The New Hope centre on the Broadway, which is soon to be extended into the next door premises. It is located within the Safer Communities Team and is a partner in the Safer Communities Strategic Partnership. The structure chart for DAAT is attached. DAAT is also represented on many of the other partnerships (e.g. PPO, BBAC, SCT, ASB working group) connected with Crime & Disorder and ASB.

Some of its clients are from Court generated Drug Rehabilitation & Referral Orders, although some are voluntary. The clients will include ex-prisoners following their release. During 2005/06 178 Bracknell residents entered treatment.

DAAT is financed totally through grants, rather than the Council's revenue account and Council Tax. The funding from the DoH is protected by a section 31 agreement. As always with central funding, long term planning can be precarious but in this area the funding does appear to be more reliable than in many cases.

Support is offered on site at the New Hope centre, but additional programmes are commissioned in conjunction with the DAAT's at Slough and RBWM. DAAT's performance is measured by the National Treatment Agency (NTA) and monthly progress reports are available on-line.

There are a number of issues which could be looked by the Working Group. The joint commissioning system has been impacted by problems in the Slough DAAT. They have significantly greater demands than at BFBC and have staff recruitment shortfalls.

Accommodation for ex-offenders on release from prison is in short supply through the Supporting People programme. This results in clients "sofa surfing" with friends, who are invariably current drug users, then being drawn back into a cycle of drug use.

The joint commissioning with the DAAT's and PCT's of Slough and RBWM has already experienced some pressures. It remains to be seen whether the consolidation of the three PCT's will be beneficial or not in respect of the requirements of our DAAT.

We did not discuss any initiatives involving alcohol consumption. In terms of ASB this is an area which needs to be investigated in more detail as much of the ASB is alcohol fuelled, and often involves underage drinkers.

**John Piasecki**

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix C

