RECRUITMENT OF ADDICTION SOCIAL WORKER

1. **SUMMARY**

1.1 To aid the development of Community Addiction teams within Argyll and Bute it is proposed to recruit a basic grade social worker within the locality of Cowal with a specific remit for addictions. Post will be funded via Scottish Executive Alcohol Action Plan monies.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That Members approve the appointment of a specialist addiction social worker within Cowal area for a two year period.

2.2 That Members support the development of a pilot Community Addiction Team in the context of integrated care and Joint Future.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 In March 2003 the Alcohol Action Plan for Argyll and Bute was submitted to the Scottish Executive within the Alcohol Action Plan for the Argyll and Clyde Alcohol and Drug Action Team (ADAT). The Action Plan for Argyll and Clyde was costed at £9,826,963 over two years. The total plan for Argyll and Bute was costed at £2,978,510 over two years.

In 2004 the Scottish Executive announced funding of £739,000 over two years for the Argyll and Clyde ADAT to implement the Argyll and Clyde Alcohol Action Plan. The Co-ordinated Addictions network (CAN) of the Health Board was asked to prioritise the expenditure.

3.2 The treatment section in the Argyll and Bute plan focused on the development of community addictions teams (CATs) in the four localities. The CATs would consist of NHS, Social Work and Voluntary sector staff working as an integrated team. Integrated working is strongly promoted via the Scottish Executive document, *Integrated Care for Drug Users* (Sept 2002) and the Joint Future initiative.

3.3 CAN suggested that Argyll and Bute Council should have funding to recruit two part time addiction social workers. After consultation locally it was felt that the recruitment of two part time specialist addiction social workers would be very difficult. Accordingly it was agreed to recruit one full time addiction social worker to join the embryonic CAT which already exists in Dunoon based in Ballochyle house.
Ballochyle House already has NHS and Voluntary sector staff co-located within the one building. The missing element has always been the social work personnel. This new post will allow a pilot CAT to be developed and lessons learnt which will inform the development of further CATs in other localities if and when monies become available. It is also envisaged that the post would integrate with the long established FUSIONS project in Cowal and thus be able to offer integrated packages of care to vulnerable families affected by substance misuse issues.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Funding allocated to Argyll and Bute from the Alcohol Action Plan Scottish Executive monies dispersed via Argyll and Clyde Health Board will allow the creation of a new post of basic grade social worker to further the development of a Community Addiction team based in Dunoon.

4.2 The pilot development will inform the future development of CATs across Argyll and Bute if further monies are available.

4.3 This will give impetus to integrated teams as required by Joint Future.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Policy. Proposal meets with Joint Future agenda and Scottish Executive recommendations for an integrated care approach within addiction related work.

Financial. Salary costs will be met from Scottish Executive Alcohol Action Plan monies distributed by Argyll and Clyde Health Board

Legal. None

Personnel. One additional post will be created on a temporary basis (two years).

Equal Opportunities. None

Director of Community Services
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For further information contact: Cath Cakebread, Service Officer Substance Misuse Team Argyll and Bute Hospital Blarbuie Rd Lochgilphead