



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE SOUTH EAST

drugs & COMMUNITIES

“Substance misusers are a vulnerable group whose housing needs must be addressed as part of a package of interventions to control and prevent relapse into substance misuse, offending and homelessness”



issue 1
housing focus
october 2007

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editorial

Thamasin Gray

DIP COMMUNITIES MANAGER
COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

Welcome to the first edition of our Drugs & Communities newsletter. I have to admit that it has been quite a struggle to get contributors on board but I'm hoping that this edition will create a wealth of enthusiasm from managers and service providers alike within the Drugs & Communities field, and have a broader relevance to Community safety Managers and support officers.

For this first edition the main focus is on Housing and Homelessness – looking at case studies, projects, practice and guidance.

Getting drug misusing offenders into stable accommodation is the foundation for successful rehabilitation – our prison and probation services should work in close partnership with housing providers, Drug Intervention Programme workers, Community Justice Intervention teams and Supporting People (SP) commissioning bodies to analyse and scope the scale and range of offenders' housing and support needs. SP authorities and commissioning bodies are also responsible for ensuring that appropriate local provision of housing related support services is available for all vulnerable people.

Work to join up these and other community services through close partnership working and shared protocols is key to delivering Government Office objectives and I'm hoping that this newsletter becomes integral to this.

Tumin House in Kent is our first case study to be highlighted – one of our officers visited Tumin on its official opening and you can read his comments opposite.

I hope you enjoy reading this first edition!

Thamasin

Contributions

Do you have a successful drugs & communities project you would like to share in this newsletter? Are there any barriers you are coming across time and time again? Has someone else got the solution?

This edition will be the first of an occasional series – further issues will be reliant on contributions received. Feedback on issues will always be welcomed.

thamasin.gray@gose.gsi.gov.uk
tel: 01483 882296

Government Office for the South East
Safer & Stronger
Communities Directorate
1 Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 4GA
www.gose.gov.uk

tumin house: maidstone kent



Tumin House opened in December 2005. It is a supported housing project for ex-offenders who have a history of substance misuse and are attempting to live their lives free of drugs and alcohol.

The building, situated in the heart of Maidstone town centre consists of nine self contained studio flats and is managed by Stonham one of the largest specialist supported housing providers in the country.

The staff team work in close partnership with KCA Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) workers and the Probation Service to assist clients in their resettlement and rehabilitation and to enable them to move on to more appropriate long term housing.

Referrals and applications to the Tumin Project can be made by individuals, statutory or non-statutory agencies. However all referrals are channelled through the KCA DIP workers.

Applicants must be single people aged 18 and above. Able to demonstrate that they have successfully completed a recent drug or alcohol treatment programme in prison and wish to live a life free from drugs or alcohol upon release and have a local connection to either Maidstone or West Kent.

The key aims of the project is to provide temporary accommodation and positive support for those referred to Stonham, by offering them, through staff support an opportunity to reassess and manage their lives with a view to moving on into independent accommodation and an improved way of life.

All clients are given an Assured Shorthold Tenancy agreement for a period of six months with the possibility that it may be renewed for a further six months upon review.

The project has been supported by Government Office for the South East, Maidstone Borough Council, & KDAAT (Kent drug and alcohol action team). This partnership working has contributed to the success of the project.

"It is a very impressive project; the studios have beds that fold away into the wall so that when you walk in you don't get the impression of going into someone's bedroom; there is a communal sitting room for those who feel like a bit of company; and there is 24hr coverage by dedicated and caring staff.

All the residents are screened for the right attitude and are encouraged to do voluntary work during their tenancy, which will look good on a CV. One of the original tenants I spoke to was working on a thesis for Greenwich University on whether criminals are born or made!"

Chris Fillier-Brown
The then GOSE Community Policy Manager for Kent

Further information

Gill Lant, Services Manager Stonham, gill.lant@homegroup.org.uk ■

60 second interview

Bec Davison

SUSSEX PARTNERSHIP TRUST



What's your current role in Sussex Partnership Trust (SPT)?

I work for CRI, a voluntary sector organisation. We work in partnership with the SPT, providing the non-clinical component of the drugs and alcohol contract.

As the Area Manager for Brighton and Hove I manage the Rough Sleepers team, the street based Anti-Social Behaviour team, and a jointly commissioned rehab through Supporting People and PCT for people with a history of rough sleeping and offending.

Tell me about the project you are currently working on:

I am now in a position where I am working with homelessness and treatment. Traditionally these two areas do not work together well. I have conducted some local research to discover that approx 80% of people living in hostels are problematic substance misusers, but only about 5% of them are accessing treatment services at any one time. Support plans and care plans are often parallel processes that the client experiences which can be incongruent and inconsistent. Many clients are often evicted because of substance related behaviour and hostel workers do not necessarily know how to deal with the issues. Currently there are 25 people



awaiting hostel accommodation and a number empty rooms in more independent accommodation where floating support is provided. This is essentially because people are not being worked with in an integrated care planned way addressing pre-tenancy resettlement issues and substance misuse.

The project I am working on will provide/involve:

- Training for all hostel workers on how to access treatment services, what the options are, myth busting, differences between 12-step and cognitive behavioral therapy and harm reduction interventions.
- Consistent substance misuse policies for all accommodation providers.
- Harm reduction pack with resources for clients and workers alike including safer injecting advice, injury info, overdose prevention, risks of mixing drugs, alcohol, prescribed medicines etc.
- The Substance Misuse Service (SMS) to invite hostel keyworkers to their integrated morning meetings to formulate care plans, and attend 3-way reviews. All non-clinical components to include hostel keyworkers in care planning and reviewing.

- Integrating pathways to be included on the action plan for single Homeless Strategy and Treatment Performance Group. I have been asked to do a presentation at Joint Commissioning Group with a view to including targets for both commissioning bodies to ensure the success of the integration.

What's working well?

Triage forms have started to be filled in by some hostels. Some nurses have started to include hostels in care planning. Harm reduction drop-ins at three hostels working well, where paraphernalia is also given out. Needle packs given out on rough sleepers street shifts along with harm reduction advice. Training received very well.

What's driving you mad?

The hostels saying they are too busy to work with substance misuse issues, whilst also saying they have 80-100% substance misuse in their accommodation. Constant focusing on medical interventions and not seeing that holistic care will enhance treatment outcomes.

What do you hope this work will achieve in the next 12 months?

More integration of accommodation and treatment systems: triage being filled in within two weeks of someone moving into hostel, attendance by keyworkers at integrated models of

“Creativity and flexibility will always find solutions”

care meetings, attendance at three month reviews by keyworkers, more knowledge of substance misuse issues by hostel workers, immediate referrals by SMS to Rough Sleepers team and local authority housing services.

Who have been your most supportive partners?

Single Homeless and Rough Sleepers Manager (local authority); DAAT Co-ordinator.

If you had three wishes to improve your work what would they be?

Targets for all Supporting People providers to have 80% of problematic substance misusers in treatment

Care and support plans and reviews to be fully integrated and consistent for all residents in treatment

Commissioners to embrace and fully support the agenda.

What's your life motto?

Creativity and flexibility will always find solutions. 

Further information

Bec Davison, Area Manager CRI, bec.davison@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk

The views expressed here are solely those of Bec and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of GOSE. ■

rent deposit schemes: what are they?

Rent deposit schemes have been shown to be an effective approach that can address accommodation needs and prevent homelessness.

PROJECT Developing a Comprehensive Rent Deposit Model (CDRM) to inform practice in selected DAT partnership areas

DIP has worked in partnership to further identify practice and practical solutions that could assist DATs and related partners in preventing homelessness, 13 DAT partnerships were selected in 2005 to develop and deliver a local Comprehensive Rent Deposit Model (CRDM), building on their existing local arrangements.

The term model was used to acknowledge that there were a number of key elements that needed to sit alongside the 'rent deposit' in order that housing through the private rented sector could be considered a practical and viable option.

Additional funding from DIP was made available for a two year period from 2005 until March 2007 to enhance and/or develop capacity of existing provision delivered by those local authority schemes or Voluntary/Charitable agencies where appropriate.

To manage development and implementation of the model within this two year timescale, the target group of clients were drug misusing offenders on the CJIT caseload leaving prison or residential settings.

What is a rent deposit scheme?

There is no single definition of a rent deposit scheme. Practice and findings from the National Rent Deposit Forum (2004) identified a range of approaches delivered through local authority charities and/or voluntary sector which could be grouped into the following

- Deposit schemes – cash deposit on clients behalf.
- Bond schemes – a legal agreement for guaranteeing damage deposit for the landlord.
- Rent in advance/rent guarantee schemes – rent paid whilst waiting for housing benefits.
- Rent deposit guarantee scheme – a combination of the above.

From April 2005, all Drug Action Teams were able to use the DIP main grant funding in line with their local homelessness strategy and DAT Treatment Plan to fund rent deposit arrangements in line with local arrangements.

The model had to be planned and delivered in line with the local Homelessness Strategy and the DAT Treatment Plan and could not be delivered in isolation of existing drug and housing interventions.

Many DAT partnership areas, in addition to the 13 DATs identified have also developed or are in the process of developing and strengthening partnerships with the local private rented sector. It is important that their findings and experiences are also shared and promoted. Further work on promoting practice next year will seek to work with them and incorporate further lessons to be learnt.



youth homelessness in the south east

Young people feature disproportionately amongst the homeless numbers in England.

Although 16 and 17 year olds, and 18-21 year old care leavers represent around 3% of the population, they make up around 9% of all homelessness acceptances. In the south east, the situation is worse at around 14%, rising to over 30% in some places.

In order to prevent and tackle youth homelessness, the Government has launched a National Youth Homelessness Scheme in partnership with Centrepoint and YMCA England, and announced 10 Regional Centres of Excellence for Youth Homelessness, and a target to end the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation for this age group by 2010, except in an emergency.

Some initial local funding of around £60,000 has been targeted at five locations in the region, to begin to address this issue. Some of the money will go on prevention workshops in schools, working with children's services, advice to parents, and supported lodgings schemes. For example, in Basingstoke and Deane, building upon existing services run through children's services, the funding will provide additional bed spaces for young people with more chaotic and complex needs, and enhanced service delivery in the borough by bridging the gap in links with drugs and health services.

The South East Homelessness Forum has recently set up a sub-group to look at Youth Homelessness across the region, and we are aiming to reduce the number of homelessness in this age group by 25% by March 2008. ■



Further information

Glenn Austin,
Regional
Homelessness
Manager, GOSE.
glenn.austin@
gose.gsi.gov.uk

☞ **rent deposit schemes continued**

It is recognised that the private rented sector and arrangements for rent deposit schemes are not the only solution to meet housing needs and/or prevent homelessness for all drug misusing offenders ie on the CJIT caseload. However with the right partnerships, assessment of need and related support they can provide for some the first opportunity for their own safe space and what they can call home.

Progress update: June 2007

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/dip/AC_CRDM_PUpdate_Jun2007

Further information

aftercareDIP_enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk ■

shelter: good practice guide

Shelter has just published a Good Practice Guide on *Homelessness Early Identification and Prevention*. The guide aims to look at one distinct area of homelessness – that of identifying at an early stage who may be at particular risk of becoming homeless and making sure that that risk is minimised or eliminated. It contains many examples across the UK with a couple from the South East. One example is the West Berkshire Vulnerable People Protocol.



EXAMPLE **West Berkshire Vulnerable People Protocol**

The training pack has been designed to enable frontline staff to understand potential vulnerability...

West Berkshire Council's Vulnerable People Protocol (VPP) is a proactive approach to the identification, assessment and support of people who are, or who may become, vulnerable to losing their tenancies because of unmet support needs. It is a multi-agency protocol led by Sovereign Housing Association, West Berkshire Council (housing operations, social service and housing benefit teams) and Two Saints Housing Association.

The protocol and its associated training package for staff and service users presents tools and available services and resources in West Berkshire to ensure that vulnerable people receive timely information, advice and support. It uses a broad definition of vulnerability which includes substance abuse, periods of sustained illness at home, hospitalisation and periods following discharge from hospital or other institutional care and many other indicators.

The VPP staff training pack takes these indicators further by including, for example, episodes of stress or mental ill health, chaotic lifestyles, loss of income and bereavement as points of vulnerability. The protocol therefore requires that consideration should be given to potential vulnerability at all points of contact with residents, and potential residents within the district.

These points of contact include:

Applications for housing; home visits; ad hoc visits – eg because of rent arrears; programmes of tenancy visits; supported move to new housing; social/medical panels; key life-cycle events such as bereavement or relationship breakdown; and issue of notice of eviction.

The training pack has been designed to enable frontline staff to understand potential vulnerability and learn how to respond to it, make an assessment, and review, evaluate and track the VPP. Once vulnerability and support needs have been identified, support may be provided by any agency involved, and will be determined by the pre-tenancy meeting, other contact between the partner agencies, or through a case conference.

To obtain the full Good Practice Guide, visit www.shelter.gov.uk ■

the kent female estate demonstration project



The project, Vision@CWESP, has developed a resettlement service based at East Sutton Park that has been accessible by female offenders serving sentences across both Cookham Wood and East Sutton Park (CWESP). This has been achieved by peer case workers dividing their time between the two establishments.

A data base has been developed, recording relevant information about everyone being discharged across CWESP; this will enable the project to identify specific issues faced by female offenders returning to the community and to inform the work that needs to be put in place to deal with these problems prior to their release.

An after care service has been established, enabling clients to contact the project post release. This ensures that any issues which may arise can be dealt with by the team or will be referred onto external agencies who specialise in the area of concern.

The team are attending a number of meetings, events and training days both internally and externally, in line with the project plan. This is proving to be successful and a number of links have been made with accommodation providers.

Since the announcement of the re-role of Cookham Wood the team has ensured that all client work is up to date and that clients have their case file to take to their next establishment. Links are being established with HMP Send and Downview with a view to offering a service, not only to current clients but also to assist with any problems either establishment has with existing offenders.

The project is also working with other establishments in Kent and Sussex and is currently in talks with Kent Probation about services that can be provided to them.

The employment, training and employment side of the project is now being developed.

Further information

Keeley Cordice, Project Co-ordinator,
keeley.cordice01@hmps.gov.uk ■

hot issues

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships are currently producing strategic assessments to inform next year's business planning process around crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and drugs. You may wish to check that your agenda has been considered.

Consultation on the new drugs strategy "Our Community, your say" comes to an end on October 19th. Have you had your say?

Local area Agreement negotiations are underway this autumn. Are you working with partners to ensure specific local issues around drugs are being taken into consideration?

Home Office/Communities & Local Government news

identifying and promoting practice in housing for drug users

As housing has been identified as such a key issue for drug users, Communities and Local Government (CLG), the Home Office Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), The National Treatment Agency (NTA) the Ministry of Justice National Offender Management Service (NOMS), and the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) from the Department of Health (DH) are working together to prevent homelessness amongst drug users.

Delivery of effective housing for drug users at different stages in their lives provides important challenges for national, regional and local partners. Identifying and promoting joined up solutions for drug users is one of the major drivers to help meet drug treatment targets, reduce crime and promote sustainable communities.

This is important as the information gathered will be shared widely...

In order to improve a shared understanding of need, and to help further identify and promote practice (with a focus in England), the Home Office and CLG have seconded two housing and drug advisors, Martin Nugent and Greg Green. The two advisors were appointed from the housing and drug sectors respectively and are supported by a national working group.

What has been happening?

The initial phase of the advisors' work was undertaken between November 2006 and March 2007. Making use of available national and regional information they focused on identifying the strategic link, data collection mechanisms and joint ways of working that were in place nationally and regionally to support positive housing outcomes for drug users. Emerging findings have been used to inform the second phase of their work and will be included in the final report which will be available in early Spring 2008.

Next steps

The second phase of work will look at practice that demonstrates solutions that can be used to particularly help housing and drug partnerships and providers to strategically plan, commission and deliver a planned system of housing for drug users. Drawing





on information from partners and the 'field', a range of practice examples from strategic planning through to delivery and service user involvement have been identified. Innovative practice that addresses some of the challenges involved in planning, service delivery and monitoring outcomes will be a particular focus.

A range of national and regional stakeholders have helped to inform both the identification and selection of partnerships and providers who could contribute to this part of the fieldwork. Given the range of practice examples available, selection was particularly informed by the ability to evidence,

- local or organisational needs assessment in relation to drugs and housing.
- outcomes that have been planned and agreed in advance.

Given the time available to undertake this work the aim is not to collect details of all practice in England but merely a sample that will demonstrate a broad range of outcomes that can support commissioning, planning and delivery of housing for drug users.

How will practice be gathered?

Practice will be gathered primarily through field work which is planned to take place from September to mid November (2007). Greg and Martin will aim to make best use of this time through clarifying in advance with contributing partnerships and provider organisations who may be best placed to meet with them. A framework of questions will be shared in advance with those who are participating. This has been drawn up in order to help structure each session, which will be undertaken as a semi-structured interview and take no longer than two hours.

In order that we best represent what is shared with us, and to ensure that we have all the information, those interviewed will be sent a write-up of the interview to agree and arrange sign off on behalf of their organisation or partnership. This is important as the information gathered will be shared widely such as on the Government's drugs website www.drugs.gov.uk

What will we do with the information?

Practice from the fieldwork, once cleared with contributing providers and partnerships, will be collated and findings will be shared in Spring 2008. The national working group supporting this overall project are seeking to identify how best to disseminate this practice as well as the findings from the initial work which will also be updated as appropriate and be available as part of this same report.

Further information

aftercareDIP_enquires@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk ■

national offender management service update <http://noms.justice.gov.uk>

bail accommodation and support service (BASS)

A new Bail Accommodation and Support Service was introduced by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) on 18 June 2007 to enable the courts to make greater use of bail, and to increase to opportunity for home detention curfew (HDC)

This service is provided on a regional basis to NOMS' Regional Offender Managers by ClearSprings Ltd, an established provider of housing and support to vulnerable people. A booking system is provided by ClearSprings for operational staff in prisons and courts to make arrangements to access the service. Bail Information Reports will be prepared for the most part by prison-based staff.

The accommodation is not in hostels but in dispersed community settings and meets the standards of the relevant local authority. The mix in each property will be carefully managed and will be single gender, with up to four people sharing. Accommodation capacity will increase and will become more widely available over the next three months.

Defendants will be met at the address by a support worker and will be given an induction and advice on local services.

Support for those bailed/HDC will be provided by trained staff giving three one-hour contact sessions in the first three weeks of occupancy and at least one hour per week during the person's time in the bail accommodation. One session will be at the weekend. Through these contact sessions a support officer will help the individual to comply with the conditions of bail, to maintain the 'tenancy' and address any offending-related needs in collaboration with existing specialist public and voluntary services. Help in finding more

stable accommodation will also be given. Those who are not re-remanded or sentenced to custody will be allowed to remain at the accommodation for up to seven days after completion of bail.

end of custody licence (ECL)

As announced by the then Lord Chancellor on 19 June 2007, with effect from 29 June 2007 eligible prisoners serving sentences of between four weeks and less than four years may be released under temporary licence up to 18 days before their automatic/conditional release date.

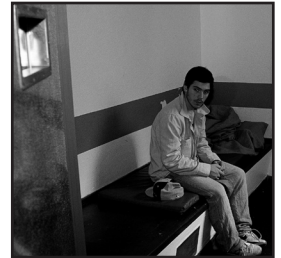
The new scheme enables suitable prisoners to leave prison, under licence, for the last 18 calendar days of the custodial portion of their sentence, subject to serving a minimum period of seven days in custody from date of sentence. Prisoners who successfully complete their period of ECL will not be required to return to the establishment before their normal release date. Remand and convicted unsentenced prisoners are not eligible until such time as they are sentenced.

ECL will allow prisoners to seek employment/training earlier than their conditional release date from custody, and will provide relief to the prison population. Where prisoners are subject to supervision by the probation service on release, early contact with their supervising officer during the period of ECL will be required so that the process of supervision and rehabilitation within the community can begin at an earlier stage. However, during the period of ECL the prisoner will be subject to licence conditions set by the Governor who will have the power to recall prisoners if they fail to comply. ■

joint working:

housing advice and assistance for offenders

New Protocol set up between Surrey Police, Surrey Probation Area, the Borough and District Councils and LSVT Housing Associations



The purpose of this protocol is to help resettle and rehabilitate offenders by establishing a common process for applying for housing assistance.

Specific duties for agencies under the existing protocol and duty to co-operate contained in the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are unaffected. This protocol will complement the MAPPA process, which takes precedence in the case of offenders subject to the MAPPA arrangements. The two protocols are consistent in principle.

Specific categories to which this protocol applies are:

- Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO's)
- Substance misusers in the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP)
- Other offenders (where appropriate)

This protocol sets out the framework for joint working between the agencies concerned. Where the local housing authority has transferred its housing to a Local Stock Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) Housing Association (or Registered Social Landlord) is included. Other relevant professionals may also be involved.

The Referral form is now in use and agencies working with offenders including prison service staff can use it to refer to Surrey Housing Authorities.

Further information

Kim Rippet, Surrey DAAT Housing Task Group,
kim.rippett@guildford.gov.uk

For the Protocol and Referral & Risk Assessment: www.surreycc.gov.uk
then type 'Housing Advice & Assistance for Offenders' into 'search'. ■

forthcoming **events**

Third Annual Conference of the National Criminal Justice Drug Workers Forum

30-31 October 2007 • 2 days • The Hayes Conference Centre, Alfreton, Derbyshire

Aimed at drugs practitioners from all sectors of the criminal justice system, this two day event reflects client-centred worker development and partnership and offers presentations on key themes as well as a range of interactive and informative workshops including: Client Engagement and Retention, Motivating Success, IDTS, Cultural and Religious Diversity, Drugs and Prostitution, Throughcare, Aftercare and Housing, Counselling and Reintegration into Society, PPOs into Treatment.

For more information:

www.drugreferral.org/NCJDWFHome.htm

5th Annual Drug and Alcohol Professionals Conference

**(organised by the Federation of Drug and Alcohol Professionals (FDAP),
in association with Drink & Drugs News)**

13 November 2007 • 1 day • Royal Institute of British Architects, London

This conference aims to support the development of front line practitioners, managers and commissioners, and give delegates the opportunity to have their say on important issues of the day.

This year's plenary presentations will cover: the alcohol and drug strategies, the future of treatment, and empowerment and self help. Breakout sessions will cover a range of issues, including: the new NICE guidelines; the updated 'orange book' clinical guidelines; BBV's; education & prevention; ethical practice; working with trans-gender & trans-sexual clients; Narcotics Anonymous; working with people with learning disabilities; human rights and drugs; families; needle exchange; peer mentoring & advocacy; and brief interventions on alcohol.

For more information and booking form:

www.fdap.org.uk/fdapevents/conf2007.html

Please note:

The Community Safety Team at Government Office for the South East does not endorse or offer any quality guarantee for any externally organised events. ■

publications

Rough Sleeping

The annual Rough Sleeping figures have recently been published by CLG, together with a Policy Briefing on Rough Sleeping: 10 Years on from the Target.

Although nationally the number of Rough Sleepers has plateaued out over recent years to just under 500 (from a baseline of over 1,800 in 1998, a reduction of around 75%), the numbers in this region have increased in 2007 from 47 to 71.

For more information:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/policybrief20

Review of Hostels for Rough Sleepers

Communities and Local Government commissioned this report to review the effectiveness of arrangements for access to hostels for rough sleepers in London. The research for the review examined:

- Whether some rough sleepers are unable to access services or hostels and whether this problem has grown worse in recent years. Whether there are any particular problems of access according to age, gender, ethnic origin, or support needs.
- If there are such problems, where they occur and why, including the impact of local authority quotas, local connection policies and Supporting People.
- The number of former rough sleepers moving on to second stage accommodation and whether there are shortages in the availability of such accommodation, or particular types of it, such as for people with higher support needs. Whether any such problems have become worse in recent years.

For more information:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/240807

24/7 Client phone numbers

The 24/7 client phone line should provide:

- information and advice on drug misuse, harm reduction and local access to needle exchanges and pharmacies
- referral to local services including a next day working appointment with their respective CJIT where appropriate
- local information and contact details about services including Accident and Emergency, homelessness, mental health and access to local wraparound services.

The document contains details of DATs and their 24/7 client phone line number. Numbers that have been listed have met minimum standards and are operating within the guidelines at the time of writing.

For more information:

http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/dip/AC_247_Numbers_2007-28-08?view=Standard&pubID=491473 ■

“Substance misusers are a vulnerable group whose housing needs must be addressed as part of a package of interventions to control and prevent relapse into substance misuse, offending and homelessness”