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DYFED-POWYS
POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER

REPORT / SUMMARY DECISION SHEET

PURPOSE: COMMISSIONER DECISION

Timing: Urgent / Pressing / Routine

Decision required urgently as an order to purchase testing kits is waiting to be placed.

Title: Purchase of drug testing kits for Tough Choices scheme in Llanelli

Category of Decision / Business Area Impact: Commissioning

Executive Summary:

The core remit of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) is to identify adult offenders from point of arrest through to sentence and to put into action a range of interventions to address their drug misuse needs and offending to help them get out of crime and in to treatment. Custody offers a core referral route in to DIP and the police have a critical role to play in identifying individuals who misuse drugs when they are in custody. In Llanelli, drug testing facilities exist which means that individuals who are arrested for a trigger offence can be drug tested on arrest for class A substances. These individuals are targeted specifically on the presumption that their drug use is directly linked to and drives their offending. Those testing positive are required to undergo an assessment with a DIP worker who will establish the individual's dependency on class A drugs and where appropriate encourage them to engage with the service. During 2013/14, 70% of those who provided a positive test and were not in treatment with another service went on to engage with DIP.

Anecdotally, providers are indicating that heroin has become more available and stronger in the Llanelli area. There has also been an increase in the number of individuals accessing the DIP Rapid Access Prescribing Service over the last few months. An increase in the numbers being drug tested will help in supporting individuals with a class A substance to access treatment and change their offending behaviour. However, there will be a resource implication in terms of an increase in the number of tests required.

Recommendation:

To allow custody staff to proactively test all offenders arrested for a trigger offence it is recommended that DIP funding is used to purchase testing kits during 2014/15. Data collected during 2014/15 can be used to inform an intelligence-led approach from April 2015.

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the NOLAN Principles for Conduct in Public Life.

The above has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

14/4/14