



NICDTF Strategic Priorities

Working Together

Changing Solutions

Brief

In line with the request from NDST for LDTFs to undertake strategic planning in 2007, this document is submitted as a brief overview of the key strategic priorities identified by NICDTF. Broad goals are highlighted under each pillar/theme of the existing NDS, and potential actions are highlighted

Overview

- Generally, it is considered that there is a lot of good work extant in the local area.
- The focus in the coming years needs to be on two key concerns: The consolidation & further improvement of existing services and structures.

NICDTF is seeking to strengthen, improve and develop projects / organisations that are already running in the NIC area.

Critical strategic issues include:

- Supporting interagency working (e.g. through standardised training, development of interagency protocols, improving communication channels, focusing on evidence-based information and operating from community development & social inclusion objectives)
- Addressing the ongoing and long-term premises requirements of NICDTF funded projects

Overview

- The continuing development of NICDTF as a coordinating mechanism, a representative integrated body and as a source of information & analysis in the local area.
- Critical issues include:
 - Developing databases on local information relevant to the work of NICDTF, local projects and statutory bodies (through locally relevant research).
 - Advocating for local statutory development (e.g. PCCC centres including addiction services) in line with the consolidation of local services / structures

Overview

- Cutting across these two broad issues is an emphasis on inclusion.
 - The NIC area's population has increased significantly in recent years, and now stands at over 68,000 (an increase of nearly 25,000 in the decade 1996-2006).
 - This includes the largest density of non-Irish born residents in the city.
 - Over the coming decade the population will increase by at least the same rate. Coupled with this, the area also has some of the highest levels of those accessing drug treatment (now estimated at over 1,000).
 - Ensuring inclusion and accessibility to an effective local drugs strategy for all people living in the NICDTF area is an underlying aim

NORTH INNER CITY **DRUGS TASK FORCE**

Aim

- To integrate education, treatment, rehabilitation & justice policies through local initiatives that are inclusive of the community, including drug users and their families.

Objectives

- To gather information and provide assessment and analysis
- To resource identified gaps in services
- To provide support for local project development
- To respond to new and changing needs

NICDTF Context

- The area is made up of 20 DEDs (District Electoral Divisions). Current population is between 65,000 – 68,000 having grown from 45,000 in 1996, an increase of over 40%
- 11% of population is under 15 (7,000+), 9% is 65 or over (approx. 6,000) and 80% population is between 15 and 65 (over 53,000)
- At a conservative rate the population will increase to at least 79,000 by 2016
- Most recent figures from Central Treatment Lists show that there are over 1,000 local people attending for methadone treatment. It is estimated that these numbers have grown by 350 since 1996.

NICDTF Context

- There are 4 DEDs which continue to show very high numbers on methadone (e.g. Mountjoy A – 154, 2006). These areas have some of the highest densities of Local Authority complexes in Dublin City.
- Heroin continues to be a significant problem and there is a reliance on clinics for treatment and very little local access to needle exchange. In addition there is significant cocaine use including injecting and smoking.
- 30% of the population is of foreign nationals/Non-Irish ethnic origin, twice the Dublin City average. In 6 DEDs, in or adjacent to the City Centre the population of minorities is greater than 40%. A number of projects report varying drug use.

Key Summary Points

- 24 NICDTF members from Statutory, Community, NGO & Public Elected fields with 3 employees.
- 40 projects and initiatives operating within NICDTF, under the subset of Supply Control, Prevention/Education, Treatment, Rehabilitation, Research and Community & Family Support through a variety of fully independent projects, supported projects, sub-groups, committees and networks. Annual expenditure is €2.9million.
- It is estimated that projects conservatively directly support 5,000 people of all ages children, youth, adults & older persons.
- NICDTF review was carried out through members' survey, facilitated sessions, substructure consultation and written submissions. A strategic sub-group led the process.

Key Summary Points

- Key Strengths include: High levels of participation and access; Meetings conducted to good level of efficiency and kept stakeholders well-informed; Office resources and staff considered valuable assets
- Key Weaknesses include: Need for better communication of information on work of sub-structures and projects; Addressing pressing and emerging issues more immediately
- Capacity Issues include: Timely reporting in wider drugs strategy context; Improved profile and relations with 'external' bodies; Induction of new representatives; Inclusion of Dept Social Family Affairs and Inclusion of inputs from youth, families and new communities

NICDTF Strategic Priorities by Pillar / Theme

- **Supply Reduction**
- **Prevention / Education**
- **Rehabilitation**
- **Treatment**
- **Research**
- **Family Support**
- **Coordination**

Supply Reduction

STRATEGIC GOAL

- Support development of inter-agency supply control measures

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Develop a monitoring system and database of local & regional information relevant to supply/control
- Seek implementation of recommendations of 'Changing Track' report on juvenile arrest referral
- Develop anonymous helpline similar to 'Dial to Stop Drug Dealing' programme, to include accessibility for non-English speakers in the local area
- Consider recommendations of inter-sectoral crack cocaine research, with a view to local action

Supply Reduction

POTENTIAL ACTIONS continued

- Address impact of / develop response to licit drugs in local area in context of supply reduction (e.g. party pills; importation of drugs which are available OTC in other European countries, via Internet).
- Monitor the development of locally focused CAB operations

Prevention / Education

STRATEGIC GOALS

- Improve integration of P/E actions in NIC

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Conduct mapping / review exercise of all P/E activity across the area
- Develop minimum standards for P&E delivery to young people & parents involving schools, youth projects, community drugs services & family support
- Further develop local Suicide Prevention Initiatives

Rehabilitation

STRATEGIC GOALS

- **Support local implementation of rehabilitation strategy**

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Seek to increase local availability of rehabilitation places
- Establish criteria, targets and monitoring system for local services involved in social reintegration
- Assessment of locally focused rehabilitation service capacity re: care planning / case management in interagency context
- Develop clear and specific rehabilitation strategies for polydrug use, including alcohol and cocaine
- Augment Annie Kelly Education Bursary for support to recovering drug users

Treatment

STRATEGIC GOALS

- **Improve access for those seeking treatment / access to treatment related services**

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Advocate for primary health care access, including GP services, community pharmacies & medical cards for problem drug users & their families
- Development of Community Drug Team model within existing services, where possible
- Support HSE development of primary community care centres, subject to the inclusion of addiction services
- Support development/expansion of services for U-18s

Treatment

POTENTIAL ACTIONS continued

- Ensure increased access to detoxification facilities (including support of Community Detoxification Pilot)
- Promote service users' charter for community, voluntary & statutory services as a minimum standard
- Develop a high-intensity 'bridging' service between local projects and treatment facilities
- Develop a comprehensive range of harm reduction actions on a local level (including needle exchange)
- Promote accurate information to drug users about services available
- Promote awareness and actions on blood borne viruses

Research

STRATEGIC GOALS

- **Create evidence base specific to NIC, but of value to wider research community**

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Encourage projects piloting new programmes to rigorously evaluate them with external support
- Maintain empirically valid profile of NIC
- Commission local research on extent of 'prescription' drug abuse (availability and use)

Family Support

STRATEGIC GOAL

- **Integration of Family Support across all actions**

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Provision of available local treatment options & individual requirements to families
- Develop preventative programmes to 'anti-social' exclusions & evictions
- Promote Guardian support & allowance programme
- Support creation of family support resources associated with local drug-related deaths

Coordination

STRATEGIC GOAL

To Coordinate Local Policies, Practices, Projects and Services through -

- Communications**
- Training**
- Inclusion**
- Premises Assessment**

Coordination – Communications

STRATEGIC GOAL

- **Improve communications across all NICDTF groups and projects**

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Develop & implement communication policies for substructures
- Further develop NICDTF meeting structure and effectiveness
- Develop protocols for project reporting
- Improve channels of communication for projects
- Raise public & general profile of NICDTF

Coordination – Training

STRATEGIC GOAL

- **Create central training provision for project staff/managers**

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Develop 3 year project staff programme
- Develop framework for regular monitoring
- Deliver modular-based training with recognised accreditation

Coordination – Inclusion

STRATEGIC GOAL

- **Ensure inclusion of ethnic minorities / new communities in all NICDTF work**

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Produce materials in different languages which reflect the composition and capacity of the local communities
- Support projects to develop capacity to deal with non-English speaking service users
- Support members of ethnic minorities to access NICDTF projects all local drugs services
- Support members of ethnic minorities to participate in NICDTF structures

Coordination- Premises

STRATEGIC GOAL

- **Assess premises requirements of existing & potential projects**

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Identify projects' workspace specifications, locations & potential shared resources with relevant organisations/agencies