



**Minutes of the Scottish Association of Alcohol and Drug Action Teams
Held on Wednesday 20th May 2009
Thistle Hotel, Edinburgh**

PRESENT	
<p>Dr Maggie Watts, SAADAT Chairperson Martin Bonar, Vice Chairperson, Action on Alcohol & Drugs in Edinburgh Gaynor Jones, Chairperson, Orkney DASAT Bill Nicoll, Vice Chairperson, Perth & Kinross ADP</p> <p>Elaine Lawlor, Coordinator, Forth Valley SAT John Thayres, Coordinator, MELDAP Liam McLaughlin, DADO, Perth & Kinross ADP Ruth Shepherd, Coordinator, Ayrshire & Arran ADP Stevie Lydon, Coordinator, Greater Glasgow & Clyde AAT and DAT Valerie Tallon, Coordinator, Lanarkshire ADP Suzy Calder, Coordinator, Highland DAAT Steven Dalton, Lead Officer, Dundee City DAAT Alexander Kelman, Team Leader, Aberdeen City ADP Wendy Ingledew, ADO, Western Isles ADP Maggie Murray, Strategy Support & Implementation Officer, Action on Alcohol & Drugs in Edinburgh John Campbell, DADO, Moray ADP Susan Walker, DADO, Borders DAAT Margaret Birrell, Shetland DAAT Graham Drummond, Action on Alcohol and Drugs in Edinburgh</p>	<p>Jack Law, Alcohol Focus Scotland George Howie, NHS Health Scotland Karen Cruikshank, NHS Health Scotland Sita Smith, Scottish Government Mike Massaro-Mallinson, Scottish Government Ruth Parker, Scottish Prison Service Sally Thomson, Audit Scotland</p> <p>Theresa Martinus, National Substance Use Liaison Officer (Alcohol) Ian Smillie, National Substance Use Liaison Officer (Drugs) Leon Wylie, National Substance Use Support Officer Kathleen Donnelly, SAADAT Office Manager</p>
APOLOGIES	
<p>Colin Anderson, Chairperson, MELDAP Robert Peat, Chairperson, Angus DAT Catriona Renfrew, Chairperson, Greater Glasgow and Clyde AAT Donald MacLeod, Chairperson, Western Isles ADSAT Fiona MacKenzie, Chairperson, Forth Valley SAT Brian Kidd, Chairperson, Dundee City DAAT Hazel Sutherland, Chairperson, Shetland ADAT Colin Sloey, Chairperson, Lanarkshire ADP Jim Critchton, Chairperson, Ayrshire & Arran ADP Peter Gabbittas, Chairperson, Action on alcohol & Drugs in Edinburgh Sandy Riddell, Chairperson, Moray ADP Jaci Douglas, Chairperson, Highland DAAT Bill Atkinson, Vice-chair, Perth & Kinross ADP</p> <p>Joe Griffin, Head of Drugs policy Unit, Scottish Government Mike Palmer, Public Health Directorate, Scottish Government William McColl, SCDEA Joy Barlow, STRADA</p>	<p>Julie Murray, Coordinator, Borders DAAT Lynne Spence, Coordinator, Orkney DASAT Hilary Smith, Policy Officer, West Lothian DAT Karen Smith, DADO, Shetland ADAT Chris Denmark, Research & information officer, Action on Alcohol & Drugs in Edinburgh Vered Hopkins, Development Officer, Dundee City DAAT Isobel Johncock, Outcomes Facilitator, Dundee City DAAT</p>

1. Welcome

Dr Watts welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special welcome to Ian Smillie, the newly appointed National Substance Use Liaison Officer (Drugs).

Apologies

Apologies listed above.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Gaynor Jones, Orkney DASAT pointed out a typing error in Ms. Robison's name on page 1 item 2.1. Subject to this amendment, the minutes from the meeting of 21st January 2009 were accepted as a fair and accurate record.

2.1. Matters Arising

Item 10 Children affected by parental substance misuse (CAPSM)

Dr. Watts explained that, as the main agenda items were likely to create significant discussion, there would be insufficient time to fully discuss CAPSM as requested by Gaynor Jones, Orkney DASAT. In order to do justice to this important topic, it was suggested and agreed that CAPSM may require a dedicated session and could be considered as a topic for an expert seminar, or deferred to the next meeting of SAADAT.

3. Presentations:

Progress on the HEAT targets – Drug waiting times/referral pathways guidance

A presentation on drug waiting times was provided jointly by Sita Smith and Mike Massaro-Mallinson, from the Scottish Government. A copy of the presentation is attached. Dr. Watts thanked both presenters for this helpful update.

Audit Scotland Report

Sally Thomson from Audit Scotland presented the main findings from the report "Drug and Alcohol services in Scotland". A copy of the presentation is attached. Audit Scotland will be conducting an impact assessment of the report and follow-up at 3 months and/or 12 months is possible. Dr. Watts thanked Ms. Thomson for her presentation and for her work in producing this very useful report.

Valerie Tallon, Lanarkshire ADP, informed the meeting that Alan Johnston from the Scottish Government has been invited to Lanarkshire ADP in June 09. The purpose of this visit is to go through the Audit Scotland checklist contained in appendix 4 of the report. This invitation was extended to Audit Scotland.

Alcohol Framework and ABI

Presentation postponed due to urgent diary changes.

Dr Watts indicated that the feedback given from the Scottish Government at SMACAP regarding the NHS Board visits on alcohol brief interventions had been positive. It was felt by Scottish Government that the visits had been very helpful, and she invited comments from those present. Stevie Lydon, GGC commented that he found the visit a useful experience. Other areas expressed similar views.

4. SAADAT Administration:

4.1: SMACAP

Dr Watts reported that the meeting scheduled for 9th February was rescheduled and took place on 18th May. A paper detailing items discussed at that meeting was tabled for information.

Dr Watts informed members that Dr Petra Meier from the School of Health and Research, University of Sheffield, gave a very interesting presentation of the work around modelling for minimum pricing, based on English data. Over the next three months, the research team will be considering modeling Scottish data. A copy of the presentation is available on request from the SAADAT office manager.

4.2: SACDM

SAADAT is not currently an active member of SACDM and the Scottish Government was not represented at the meeting to report on this item. However, Maggie indicated that the future of SACDM had been stated at the Delivery Reform event in April when the Minister for Community Safety had highlighted the replacement of SACDM with an independent drugs delivery commission for Scotland, along with a Youth Drugs Commission and a Scottish Drugs Recovery Consortium.

4.3: Delivery Reform

Dr Watts reported that work is now progressing towards the development of local Alcohol and Drug Partnerships with direct links to CPPs.

It is understood that recruitment to the Scottish Government National Support Unit (NSU) posts is underway.

4.4: Workplan Priorities – Creating synergy with NSU

Ian Smillie tabled and spoke to a paper which sought to compare and contrast the identified roles of the NSU officers with the aims and functions of SAADAT and the liaison officers.

Ian reported that this review is part of a process discussed at the SAADAT Advisory Group to identify areas of possible duplication and synergy between the two providers of national support. The paper had been informed by the main duties outlined in the secondment papers circulated by the NSU, the constitutional aims of SAADAT and the National Liaison Officer job descriptions.

Discussion of the paper focused on the proposed role of the NSU staff and their close linkage to Scottish Government, the potential for the staff to be allocated and work on a regional basis – particularly of relevance for the more remote and island areas.

In summary, there are unique and complementary features of both national functions, with potential for duplication in one area i.e. SAADAT Aim 3. Whilst acknowledging that there is much that remains unknown about the emerging roles of the NSU, the paper is intended as a starting point for discussion and future progress. It is the intention of the liaison team to visit ADPs to obtain their views on the need for and future direction of SAADAT. **Action: IS /TM**

5. SAADAT Discussion:

Future direction of SAADAT

With action teams now changing to ADPs, Dr Watts asked members to consider the future for SAADAT and whether the association still has a useful role to fulfill. She tabled a paper that outlined some of the options and invited feedback, both immediate and following reflection. The paper also indicated that Dr Watts was standing down from the chairmanship of SAADAT. The national officers will be asked to begin the process for electing a new association chairperson and two vice-chairs, their roles in the process being scrutineers.

A full discussion took place during which many of the points raised under item 4.4 were restated. Most people expressed the view that a support mechanism needs to be maintained during this period of change. Elaine Lawlor (Forth Valley SAT) stressed the important and valued role SAADAT plays in bringing people together to meet across Scotland, to have the opportunity to share with

other areas and to have access to the Scottish Government and other organizations. Elaine, and the rest of her team, find this beneficial and is something that the membership would like to continue. John Campbell (Moray), Maggie Murray (Edinburgh City) and Ruth Shepherd (Ayrshire & Arran) all agreed.

Dr Watts agreed to send a paper out with the minutes of meeting asking for some more in-depth feedback in order to progress matters by the end of July. In addition, the two policy divisions at the Scottish Government will be approached for more clarification. **Action: MW**

6. Papers for noting:

The following papers were circulated in advance of the meeting for noting:

- Support Officers Training and Development Days, next event 10th June 2009.
- National Alcohol Awareness Week 2009

Theresa updated the meeting on AAW. The Minister has approved the theme “Get more out of your week” and would like to participate in a local event. She also like the idea of a synchronized launch, a possible, but unconfirmed, date for a launch is Monday 5th October. The creative elements are now ready to go to production, and development of the toolkit will begin soon. Theresa thanked Vivienne from Ayrshire & Arran, Susan from Borders, Lorrain from Dumfries & Galloway and Elaine from Forth Valley for their contributions to the toolkit.

- SAADAT Working Groups
 - National communications Group (Alcohol)
 - Problematic Drinking in Scotland; estimating the size of the problem and charting service capacity.
- Dr Watts reported that this will be disseminated shortly and a formal launch event will take place. Details to follow. **Action: TM**

- Developing the Scottish Evidence Base for Social Norms
- Alcohol and Drugs Workforce Development Plan of Action
- Hepatitis C Phase 2 Action Plan
- National Injecting Equipment Guidelines

7. AOCB:

National Community Safety Strategic Group

Dr Watts reported that this group is chaired by Fergus Ewing. Tom Wood formerly represented SAADAT on this group. The group is very keen that someone from the alcohol and drugs field joins the group and volunteers were invited to let Dr Watts know.

Minimum Pricing

Two papers were tabled and Jack Law, Alcohol Focus Scotland, spoke about the campaign in partnership with BMA and SHAAP to increase the awareness of the benefits of a minimum pricing scheme in Scotland. This issue will be debated over the next 6-8 months and is one of the most effective actions that can be taken, in conjunction with others, to reduce alcohol related harm in Scotland. This will be a very intensive campaign with considerable opposition to this initiative from sections of the alcohol industry and major retailers. A letter asking for support has been sent to all Scottish Alcohol Coalition Members in this initiative. The Alcohol Health Alliance UK supports this initiative. Members indicated their support for the initiative.

Farewells

On behalf of the National Officers and everyone present, Theresa thanked Dr Watts for her support and commitment to the association.

8. Date of next meeting:

The next Association meeting will take place on 16th September 2009 venue TBC.