



COMMUNITIES AGAINST DRUGS INITIATIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A new source of funding for Crime and Disorder Partnerships has been made available through the Government Office for the South-East. This stream of funding is known as The Communities Against Drugs Initiative, which is centrally driven from the Home Office and is for statutory crime and disorder partnerships.
- 1.2 The main purpose of this funding is for tackling drug supply and disrupting drug markets, it is likely that a significant element should be for enforcements. Crime and Disorder partnerships should plan on the basis for the same amount of funding be available in 2002/3 and 2003/4.
- 1.3 The funding will be passed directly to local authorities for them to make available to the crime and disorder partnership, which will need to record expenditure in order to ensure that the money is spent appropriately and that the spend can be audited.
- 1.4 The New Forest Community Safety Partnership has been allocated £117,200. 32% of this (£37,504) must be spent on capital schemes.

2. COMMUNITIES AGAINST DRUGS BID FOR THE NEW FOREST

- 2.1 The New Forest Community Safety Partnership has produced a spending plan for 2001/02 for the Communities against Drug Initiative. This spending plan has been agreed in conjunction with the Drug Action Team and Hampshire Constabulary Chief Constable.
- 2.2 The following is a summary of the plan; the full spending plan is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The New Forest Community Safety Partnerships bid is split into 4 sections; policing, prevention, partnerships and positive futures.

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- 2.3.1 The New Forest Police Division aim to provide high visibility policing to recreational parks, housing estates and schools to disrupt drug dealing. A similar scheme to "Operation Resolution" will be launched working with education; the youth service and the local authority targeting identified sites under the three key areas above. 10% of the overall £117,200 will be allocated to Hampshire Constabulary for Hampshire wide initiatives, another 10% will be allocated to the Drug Action Team.

2.3.2 Drug free zones will be created around problem housing areas, recreation areas, schools and colleges, which will involve erecting signs providing Sharps disposal receptacles if necessary and the intervention of youth field workers. Additional police patrols will be provided in these areas.

2.3.3 The police will also provide Youth Field Workers with training on drug misuse issues.

2.3.4 An amount has been available to extend the Ringwood Youth Initiative. This sports based initiative (football) aims to target those who are vulnerable to drug experimentation and anti-social behaviour. The aim is to extend this initiative to the Waterside and Lymington.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The agreed spending plan is comprised principally of revenue expenditure items. Therefore, in order to satisfy the requirements of the initiative, it has been agreed with the Government Office for the South East that the capital element can be met by utilising an existing scheme that has a drugs prevention link.

3.2 It is proposed in this report that the capital grant element (£37,500) is allocated to the Council's CCTV scheme, thus reducing its net cost to the Authority. To ensure that the level of resources required by the Communities Against Drugs Initiative is maintained, it would then be necessary for the Authority to allocate revenue funds equivalent to the capital grant received.

3.3 The overall effect on the Council of this proposal is neutral, as it is achieved through a switch of revenue and capital resources, but it ensures that the Communities Against Drugs spending plan is achieved, whilst satisfying Central Government requirements.

3.4 Attached as Appendix 2 is the funding allocation for the Communities Against Drugs Initiative once the capital element has been reallocated.

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4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are a number of environmental benefits from reducing and preventing the drug taking behaviour. Not least criminal damage associated with intoxicated individuals, but also drugs paraphernalia often left at drug taking scenes such as hypodermic needles.

5. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The purpose of the Communities Against Drug Initiative is to enhance community safety and reduce the crime and disorder associated with drug taking.

6. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council be recommended to agree a supplementary revenue estimate of £37,500 for the Communities Against Drugs Initiative and that the CCTV net capital budget be reduced by £37,500.

BACKGROUND READING

**Letter from Hugh Marriage – Government Officer Southeast
(In Sian's possession)**

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New Forest Community Safety Partnership Communities Against Drugs Initiative.

Introduction.

GOSE have invited crime reduction partnerships to submit plans for funding which will assist in the effectiveness of strategies to tackle the problems of drugs misuse. The sum of £117,200 will be allocated on condition that a spending plan is agreed between the partnership, the Drug Action Team (DAT) and the local police commander. The following plan will fulfil that requirement and will sit in line with the draft community safety strategy currently being developed.

Background.

The New Forest Community Safety Partnership acknowledges that whilst there are no serious recognisable drug problems by comparison with other areas, it must not be complacent. The mere fact that our communities are situated between the larger conurbations of Southampton and Bournemouth, where there are drug related problems, suggests that we do not escape from being within the distribution network. There has been clear evidence that this is very much the case where a drug dealer from Bournemouth was targeting school children in the village of Bransgore and shoplifters from Bournemouth were visiting Ringwood Town Centre. Other evidence of drug misuse has been found in housing association properties and recreational areas and intelligence has been obtained indicating drug dealing in and around educational premises.

The Funding.

The following plan has been developed in line with the objectives of the Drug Action Team, the Policing Plan and the Community Safety Strategy; it is also based on the Home Office guidance on applying for funding by tackling the supply of drugs and the demand for them. In response to this the partnership felt it appropriate that 20% of the allocation be divided evenly between the wider objectives of Hampshire Constabulary (for covert cross boundary operations) and the Drug Action Team (to provide better links with the community safety partnership and Drug Reference Group). The partnership will release this funding once they have assurance that any countywide initiatives will have a local impact.

Policing

The New Forest Police Division provides the policing service to seven communities. Part of the initiative will be to provide high visibility policing to recreational parks, housing estates and schools to disrupt drug dealing. Operation Resolution, a multi-agency initiative has already had success in the New Milton area. This targeted anti-social behaviour, truancy and crime. There was a noticeable drop of 40% in reported incidents during this time. It is intended to plan the same sort of operation working with education; youth and the local authority targeting identified sites under the three key areas. The estimated policing costs for this will be £15,000.

Prevention

The 'partnership' has recently been successful in its application for CCTV in Totton, Lymington and Ringwood, 32% of the allocation will be directed towards the capital costs of this system (£37,504). Part of our preventative work will be to use remote portable CCTV camera technology in vulnerable recreational areas. Also planned is the creation of 'DRUG FREE ZONES' in housing areas, recreational areas and around schools/colleges,

by erecting signs to indicate such; providing sharps disposal receptacles (if necessary) and by the intervention of youth field workers. The costs for publicity materials and sharps disposal are £2,400. The partnership also supports the funding towards a detached youth worker for the Waterside area to assist in prevention and educational work with young people around drug misuse. The partnership has set aside £6,000 for this. The 'DRUG FREE ZONE' concept will be developed throughout the partners, including all housing, which will focus on those estates that have been identified as 'at risk' through the activities of drug dealing tenants. Additional police patrols will be essential, the partnership has allocated £22,656 towards the policing of DRUG FREE ZONES.

Partnerships

Partnership working will be essential to achieve the aims of this plan. The local authority and Forestry Commission will identify vulnerable locations where evidence of drug misuse has been found. The Police will engage with the youth service to establish what specialist training can be provided to existing youth field workers to enable them to provide better advice and guidance to young people about the consequences of drug misuse. The cost of providing such training will be £1,200.

Positive Futures.

We would like to develop the Ringwood Youth Initiative in other towns in the area. This initiative gets kids off the street and into sporting and team based activities. The initiative is targeted at those who are vulnerable to drug experimentation and anti-social behaviour. This action is in line with the guidance published for partnerships on tackling the demand for drugs. £9,000 has been allocated to pump prime the extension of the initiative.

Summary of Spending Plan

REVENUE	Amount (£'s)	CAPITAL	Amount (£)
Top slicing for police initiatives	11,720	CCTV initiative	37,504
Top slicing for DAT initiatives	11,720		
Expansion of Ringwood initiative	9,000		
Publicity costs	2,400		
Drug Free Zones (police)	22,656		
Operation Resolution (police)	15,000		
Detached youth worker/education	6,000		
Training for outreach workers in drug misuse issues	1,200		

Total	Revenue	Capital	Total
	79,696	37,504	117,200

Communities Against drugs Initiative

Information for Hampshire Drug Action Team.

- New Forest Community Safety Partnership was awarded £117,200 for the financial year 2001/02 under the Communities Against Drugs initiative.

The partnership wish to invest resources in those items listed below, in addition to the application sent to Government Office for the South East.

Summary of Spending Plan

Expansion of Ringwood initiative	£6000
Publicity costs	£1600
Drug Free Zones (police)	£15104
Operation Resolution (police)	£10000
Detached youth worker/education	£4000
Training for outreach workers in drug misuse issues.	£800
Total	£37,504.

The members of the Community Safety Partnership have agreed this plan.

For Further Information:
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