

Drug Use Prevention: An Overview of Research

Brief

To provide an overview and analysis of all research/information in relation to the prevention of drug misuse. The overview should reflect both Irish and international research. While the main focus should be on illicit drugs, alcohol use should also be considered

Background

The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) was established in July 2000 to advise the Government in relation to prevalence, prevention, treatment/ rehabilitation and consequences of drug use in Ireland, based on analysis of research findings and information available to it. The Committee will oversee the delivery of a three year work programme on the extent, nature, causes and effects of drug use in Ireland. The Committee is comprised of representatives nominated from relevant agencies and sectors, both statutory and non-statutory. The Committee operates under the aegis of the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation and reports to the Minister of State responsible for the National Drugs Strategy.

Commission

The National Advisory Committee on Drugs wishes to commission an analysis of all research/information available in relation to the prevention of drug misuse. The overview should reflect both Irish and international research. While the main focus should be on illicit drugs, preventative approaches dealing with alcohol use should be considered. It is envisaged that the findings will be presented in the form of an overview and commentary on the information and data identified. The main questions which the research will be expected to address are the following:

- What are the current understandings with regard to the concept of prevention;
- What is known about the differential risk of developing serious problems or about the individual and societal vulnerability factors which predispose people to such problems;
- What are the main types of drug prevention approaches which have been used- either aimed at individuals or at communities and either drug focused or based upon wider intervention- and what do evaluative studies reveal about outcomes of such approaches;
- What general conclusions can be reached The Committee is keen to undertake this work immediately and to have it completed within two months.

This tender was issued in March 2001 and contract was awarded