

Tender Brief For Family Support Study

Background

The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) was established in July 2000 to advise the Government in relation to the prevalence, prevention, treatment/ rehabilitation and consequences of problem drug use in Ireland, based on the analysis of research findings and information. The Committee is overseeing the delivery of a three-year work programme on the extent, nature, causes and effects of drug use in Ireland. The Committee comprises 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 NACD wishes to commission research aimed at assessing family support services and their contribution to the prevention of drug problems.

Background Information

Comprehensive approaches to the understanding of problem drug use suggest that risk may be viewed in terms of a number of system levels, the main systems in question being: the individual, the family, and the community. In line with this perspective, prevention measures may also be conceptualised in terms of the system level or levels at which they are aimed. Irish prevention policy has moved from an emphasis on individual risk factors, to a new focus in policy and practice on communal and societal factors, particularly through the funding and development of community-based drug prevention initiatives, such as the Local Drugs Task Forces. Although it is generally accepted that negative family influences play an important causal role in the development of drug problems and, similarly, that positive family influences offer protection even in high-risk communities, it is not clear that this understanding of the role of family in relation to drug problems is being actively utilised in Irish family support services. In line with the statutory obligation to provide family support services imposed on health boards through Child Care Act 1991, there has been a considerable expansion of such services, especially following the publication of Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children (1999)

Building on the work of Dr Mark Morgan in his recent review of drug prevention research (Morgan, 2001) and on Dr Kieran McKeown's earlier review of family support services in Ireland (McKeown, 2000), the Prevention Sub-Committee of the National Advisory Committee on Drugs has decided, therefore, to initiate research to explore the potential of family support work as a means of preventing drug problems.

The Brief

The NACD wishes to commission research aimed at assessing family support services with a view to establishing:

1. the extent to which current services explicitly identify drug problems as a target of their activities;

2. the extent to which family support work (that is both work being done by drug agencies and general family support work which does not explicitly identify drug issues as one of its targets) may be judged to play a positive role in the prevention of drug problems; and
3. the potential for expanding the scope of family support so as to enhance its capacity with regard to drug prevention.

the potential for expanding the scope of family support so as to enhance its capacity with regard to drug prevention. The research will:

Identify, categorise and map all of the main family support services, whether delivered directly by statutory bodies or by the voluntary sector, currently being provided in this country.

Through data gathering with families and service providers, form conclusions as to the extent to which drug problems (primarily problems relating to the use of illicit drugs but not excluding alcohol as part of a poly-drug use profile) are central to the difficulties experienced by target families.

Again through data gathering with both families and professionals, establish what if any specific drug prevention work is done with these families.

Provide evidence for the effectiveness or otherwise of family support - whether generic or explicitly targeted at drug issues - in preventing drug problems.

Make recommendations for more effective use of existing family support as a means of preventing drug problems.

Analyse and present its findings in terms of the role adequacy, role legitimacy and role support framework which has been heavily used in the alcohol problems field.

It is envisaged that this research will work closely with other current research, in particular the review of family support services recently announced by Mary Hanafin TD., Minister for Children.

Duration of project

The project is expected to commence in July 2002. A complete and final report 12 months from the award of the contract is expected together with interim reports to the NACD at 6 months and draft final report at 10 months. A liaison schedule will be agreed as part of the contract.

Requirements

Tenderers must submit a written proposal detailing the following:

1. Research methodology to be employed and justification of outputs;
2. Project management from conception to completion with clear milestones;
3. Personnel involved, their credentials, use of consultants and track record; and
4. Description of administrative and technical costs.

Evaluation

Evaluation of the submissions be will based on the following criteria:

Research methodology

Understanding of the project;

Understanding of the work involved;
Feasibility of the approach suggested.

Project management

Ability to deliver key outputs on time;
Clarity in description of milestones;
Credibility of personnel and consultants involved;
Track record.

Value for money


Description of cost;
Justification for proposed costs;
Best use of resources.

Standard contract terms and conditions are available from the office. The budget for this study is in the region of €70,000.

Tenders may be short-listed and oral presentation requested.

Closing date: 25th June 2002 @ 4pm.

You will be required to sign an FOI declaration(see link below)and you must include an up to date tax clearance certificate with your submission.

 [link to Disclosure of Information under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 form](#)

Tender should be addressed to:

Secretary
NACD
3rd Floor, Shelbourne House
Shelbourne Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
Tel: (01) 667 0760 / 667 0765;
Fax: (01) 667 0828.
Email: info@nacd.ie;
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NOTE: TENDER RETURNS SHOULD BE MARKED:

Ref: Ten/Family Support