

**DRUG TESTING IN CUSTODY SUITES: SUCCESSFUL BID FOR FUNDING****Joint Report of the Chief Constable, Clerk and Treasurer**

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**1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to inform members of a successful bid, submitted to the Home Office for funding of Drug Testing in Custody Suites in Newcastle and Sunderland Area Commands.

**2 BACKGROUND**

At the beginning of April 2003 the Home Office introduced an intensive criminal justice intervention programme which aimed to identify problematic drug misusers and encourage them to enter treatment in order to reduce drug related crime.

During the first year the Home Office funded drug testing in custody suites nationwide, based upon those with the highest acquisitive crime levels. The Home Office then announced the funding for the 2004/05 financial year would cover a further 36 BCUs which included custody suites within Newcastle and Sunderland.

Home Office funding of drug testing in custody suites covers start-up costs and the on-costs (such as staffing) of implementation. Northumbria Police was asked to submit a forcewide bid, with an emphasis on putting in place a strong leadership team who would not only set up drug testing, but then drive performance and integrate testing with other interventions aimed at getting drug misusing offenders into treatment, and reducing drug related crime.

**3 OUTCOME OF THE BID**

Funding of £1,135,136 has been agreed. This represents:

- staffing costs of £544,468 per annum for two years, covering the cost of sixteen additional police staff detention officers, two police staff support clerks, a fully funded chief inspector post as strategic lead and part funding of a second chief inspector post and an inspector post.
- Start up funding of £46,200 is also incorporated in year one only, in respect of equipment and recruitment start up costs for the programme.

Drug testing in custody suites will therefore be implemented in Newcastle and Sunderland Area Commands with effect from 1 April 2004.

The Home Office will monitor performance which will be measured in terms of:

- The proportion of adults charged with a trigger offence who are tested;
- The proportion of those testing positive who engage with an Arrest Referral Worker.

Funding for the programme is committed up to 31 March 2006.

#### **4 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

#### **5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

Although there are no direct human rights implications arising from the report itself, the provision of drug testing in custody suites does have human rights implications in that the Force has a duty to promote human rights. This work may be said to promote the 'right to life', the 'right to respect for private and family life' and the 'peaceful enjoyment of property'.

#### **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The project is fully funded by the Home Office and therefore the Treasurer confirms there are no additional costs arising from the contents of this report.

#### **7 RECOMMENDATION**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.