

### **Governance of Funding for Substance Misuse Services**

1. Under current Governance arrangements, the Safer Stockton Partnership is the point of decision-making for any issues in relation to the funding for substance misuse services (covering service delivery and associated posts in the Drugs & Alcohol Action Team) allocated to Stockton by Government Departments (Department of Health and Home Office), via the Council or the PCT, if they cannot be resolved at the DAAT Adults Commissioning Group meeting. To date this has never been the case.
2. Department of Health guidance identifies 'drug misuse services, prevention and treatment' and 'alcohol misuse services, prevention and treatment' among the list of Public Health functions to be transferred to local authorities with effect from April 2013. The new Health & Wellbeing Board has been established as the point of governance for these functions.
3. The position to date in respect of the Alcohol Strategy and associated Action Plan for Stockton is that these have been jointly 'owned' by the Safer Stockton Partnership and the Health & Wellbeing Partnership (precursor of the Health & Wellbeing Board).
4. Taking into account paragraphs 2 and 3, and the importance of drugs and alcohol to both public health and community safety, it is **RECOMMENDED** that any issue of governance in relation to drugs and alcohol funding which cannot be resolved at the Adults Commissioning Group in future should be referred to both the Safer Stockton Partnership and to the Health & Wellbeing Board for their views. In the event of a continuing failure to agree, the issue should be referred to the Local Strategic Partnership.