



Your Ref:

Our Ref: VB/23/1

Date: 25 April 2013

Being dealt with by: Chief Executive's Dept

Email: daniel.mcsorley@omagh.gov.uk

Ms Joan Crossey
Public Health Agency
Lisburn Health Centre
Linenhall Street
Lisburn
BT28 1LU

Dear Ms Crossey

RE: Alcohol and Drug Commissioning Framework for NI 2013-16

I am writing on behalf of Omagh District Council in relation to the consultation on the Alcohol and Drug Commissioning Framework for NI 2013-16. Members discussed the consultation at the Council's Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 16 April 2013, at which they expressed their wish to register the Council's endorsement of the Framework.

Alcohol and drug abuse is very concerning particularly within the North West, where the incidents of abuse are higher than the Northern Ireland average. The correlation of alcohol related mortality to deprived communities is also a concern given the high levels of multiple deprivation, both in the urban and rural areas of the west. Social isolation in rural areas is also impacting on the increased abuse of alcohol and drugs.

The Council concurs with the holistic and partnership approach outlined in the Framework, which will bring a number of relevant government departments and agencies, the voluntary, community and private sectors together when addressing these problems.

The Council is also pleased to note the reference within the Framework to evidence based research into best practice when addressing alcohol and drug abuse.

Omagh District Council is generally content with the details outlined in the Framework. It notes the reference to the restraints on public finance at this time, however, the Council would seek an assurance that adequate funding is targeted at the delivery of the Framework, as the cost of not appropriately addressing early intervention, awareness raising, treatments and rehabilitation will undoubtedly result in exorbitant costs further along the process, which is already evident in our society today.

On behalf of Omagh District Council, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation and we await the final outcome of the consultation process.

Yours sincerely

Dorothy McSorley

ll

D McSORLEY
Chief Executive