



The National Drug Strategy Symposium: Building on the Past, Solutions for the Future

"Drug misuse wastes lives, destroys families and damages communities. It costs taxpayers millions to deal with the health problems caused by drugs and to tackle the crimes such as burglary, car theft, mugging and robbery which are committed by some users to fund their habit. The drug trade is linked to serious organised crime, including prostitution and the trafficking of people and firearms. Drugs remain a serious and complex problem that we – along with all modern societies – must face."

— Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP, Home Secretary, February 2008

Event Details

Title: **The National Drug Strategy Symposium: Building on the Past, Solutions for the Future**

Date: Tuesday 30th September 2008

Time: 10:15am — 3:40pm
(followed by networking drinks)

Venue: One Whitehall Place, Westminster, London

Organiser

Public Policy Exchange, in association with the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking.

These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future policy development across all areas of public policy.

Overview

Since the 1998 launch of the ten year drug strategy *Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain* there have been many positive strides in the fight against drugs and the dangers they pose to public health and community safety, but the struggle is by no means over. Building on the progress made in recent years and responding to new concerns, such as the recent explosion of large scale cannabis grow houses, the government has devised a new ten year policy, *Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities - the 2008 Drug Strategy*, and a 2008 – 2011 Action Plan. The new package of measures centres around four main objectives:

- Protecting communities through robust enforcement to tackle drug supply, drug-related crime and antisocial behaviour
- Delivering new approaches to drug treatment and social re-integration
- Improving public information campaigns, communications and community engagement
- Preventing harm to children, young people and families affected by drug misuse

This one-day national symposium, hosted by the *Centre for Parliamentary Studies*, will provide an invaluable opportunity for stakeholders and local practitioners including police, local authorities and health services to assess the key objectives of the new strategy. Delegates will consider how improved services can be implemented fully and effectively through a coherent partnership approach to begin to finally break the cycle of drug use and associated crime that affects all too many families and communities in this country.

Some of the key themes to be addressed at the conference include:

- The Outcomes of the Completed 1998 Drug Strategy Plan
- Drug Treatment Services and Re-Integration Methods, Including the Results of the *NHS's Improving services for substance misuse: Commissioning drug treatment and harm reduction services*
- Drug Awareness Campaigns, Education in Schools and Early Intervention
- Empowering the Police to Deliver Tougher Enforcement
- Creating Partnerships Between the Police and Community Members to More Effectively Identify Drug Users and Suppliers

Who should attend?

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, Community Safety Teams, Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Drug & Alcohol Action Teams, Health Service Professionals, Accident & Emergency Departments, Town Centre Managers, Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinators, Police Services and Policy Authorities, Youth Offending Teams, Youth and Outreach Workers, Probation Officers, Community Support Officers, Children and Youth Services, Domestic Violence Co-ordinators, Families Services Officers, Social Workers, Social Exclusion Teams, Local Education Welfare Authorities, Teachers and Head Teachers, Neighbourhood Wardens and Co-ordinators, Criminal Justice Practitioners, Local Authority Officers & Councillors, Central Government Departments and Agencies, Equality and Diversity Practitioners, Third Sector Practitioners, Academics and Researchers

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