

## **ADSW Standing Committee on Substance Misuse**

### **Position Statement – April 2010**

#### **Context**

Substance misuse has a significant and negative impact on individuals, their families and communities and ultimately, affects Scotland's wellbeing as a nation. The cost to the country is estimated to exceed £2.6bn every year and it is clear that this needs to change.

Scottish Government has recognised that it is essential to take a fresh approach to tackling problem drug and alcohol misuse if we hope to achieve our national outcomes. This approach has been enshrined within the national policy documents on drugs and alcohol; The Road to Recovery (May 2008) and Changing Scotland's Relationship with Alcohol (a discussion paper on the strategic approach- Sept 2008).

The concept of 'recovery' is central within both of these documents and is firmly embedded in clearly defined actions to ensure the delivery of these strategies. The core principles of recovery focus on enabling individuals to become active and fully participating members of society. The delivery of key outcomes will be measured against a nationally agreed framework and Alcohol and Drug Partnerships will be expected to monitor and report on progress. ADSW has contributed extensively to the Road to Recovery and has played a lead role in national work to develop the outcomes framework.

Robust accountability arrangements between central government and local community planning partnerships have been introduced and a national support team has been established to assist partnerships to meet these demands.

#### **Substance Misuse in Social Work**

The impact of substance misuse permeates every aspect of social work service provision. The consequences of problem alcohol and drug use affect our ability to discharge our obligations in relation to children's services, criminal justice and community care services. Alcohol and drugs impact on the ability of social work services to operate with individuals, families and with communities.

### **The purpose of the Standing Committee on Substance Misuse is to:**

- \* Heighten the profile of the social work role within the drug and alcohol field in Scotland
- \* Play a key role in shaping the strategic development of drug and alcohol services
- \* Co-ordinate and contribute to activity across ADSW Standing Committees and national advisory committees
- \* Ensure the provision of consistent information on social work within all ADPs (including the provision of advice and support for all CSWO)

### **Defining a Framework of Intervention**

Social work is rarely practiced in isolation and interdisciplinary work needs to be fully understood and carefully managed to avoid service boundary disputes and to ensure effective use of skills. This model provides a template to agree priorities and assess progress.

Within social work there is a requirement to

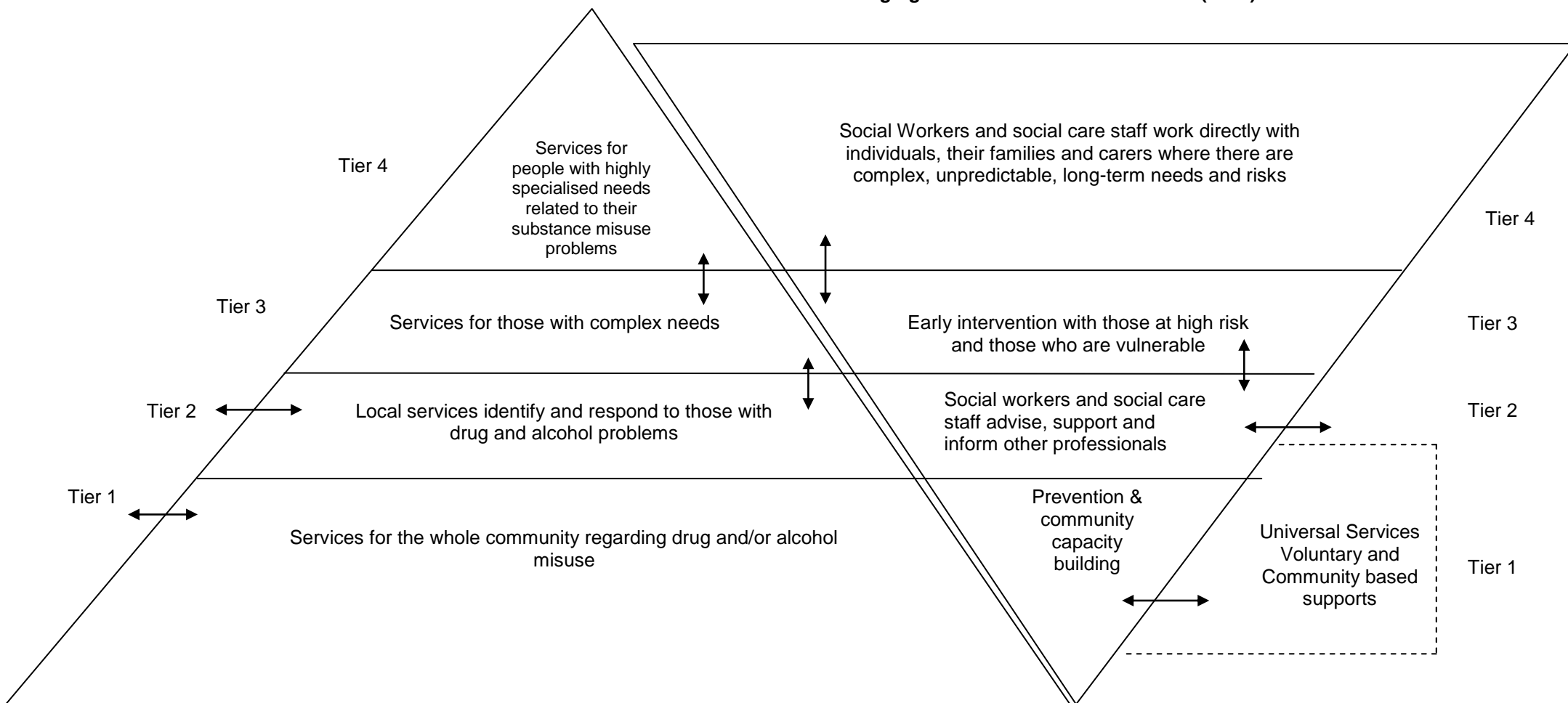
- Assess comprehensive need
- Assess and manage risk
- Clarify eligibility and referral processes
- Develop effective care planning
- Ensure development of integrated, accessible services and personalised service delivery
- Identify gaps in service
- Demonstrate effective outcomes

The following framework (Fig 1) outlines the tiered approach adopted within 'Changing Lives' (2006) to illustrate the functions of social work staff. This corresponds with the Alcohol Problems Support and Treatment Services model (2002) which represents the required levels of intervention and allocation of resources in order to build capacity to deliver personalised services to those with substance misuse problems.

The Standing Committee on Substance Misuse has agreed that there is a need to commission research which will support the evidence base for social work and social care in responding to the needs of those with drug and alcohol problems. This work will be completed in autumn of 2010 and will also explore workforce development requirements which will be complemented by the Scottish Alcohol and Drugs Workforce Development Strategy.

**Figure 1 Framework for Intervention – How the tiers correspond**

**Changing Lives – The Social Work Role (2006)**



**Adapted from the Alcohol Problems Support and Treatment Services (2002)**

Arrows indicate that people may move between tiers as their assessed need changes

People may have direct access to Tiers 1 and 2

