

## The Drugs Crisis in local communities – how you can make it an election issue – Local Elections 2004

Your local election candidates will be calling to your door and looking for your vote during the next couple of months – ask them what are they and their party are planning to do to tackle the drugs crisis in your local community.

In the last couple of years, the drugs crisis has ceased to be a priority at a political level. The Government has given commitments to local communities in the National Drug Strategy 2001-2008, but these commitments have not been met. Ask your candidates what do they intend to do to ensure that these commitments are delivered on in your local community. Ask the election candidates to be specific in their replies – if they do not have answers for you when they call, ask them to come back to you with the answers.

**Treatment** - What commitments were given in the National Drugs Strategy?

### Action 48

To have in place, in each Health Board area, a range of treatment and rehabilitation options as part of a planned programme of progression for each drug misuser, by end 2002. This approach will provide a series of options for the drug misuser, appropriate for his/her needs and circumstances and should assist in their reintegration back into society.

### Action 51

To have a clearly co-ordinated and well-publicised plan in place for each Health Board area by end 2002 for the provision of a comprehensive and locally accessible range of treatments for drug misusers.

### Action 55.

To explore immediately the scope for introducing greater provision of alternative medical and non-medical treatment types, which allow greater flexibility and choice. This may increase the numbers of drug users presenting for treatment, as it is evident that a “one size fits all” approach is not appropriate to the characteristics of Irish drug use.

***What do you and/or your party intend to do to deliver on these commitments to this community?***

## Cocaine

Since the publication of the National Drugs Strategy, the increasing use and availability of cocaine has become a big issue in our communities.

***How do you intend to respond to the growing cocaine problem in our community?***

**Policing - What commitments were given in the National Drugs Strategy?**

### Action 7.

To increase the level of Garda resources in LDTF areas by end 2001, building on lessons emanating from the Community Policing Forum model.

### Action 8.

To establish a co-ordinating framework for drugs policy in each Garda district, to liaise with the community on drug-related matters and act as a source of information for parents and members of the public. Each Garda district and sub-district be required to produce a Drug Policing Plan to include multi-agency participation in targeting drug dealers.

### Action 10.

To continue to target dealers at local level by making additional resources available to existing drug units and for the establishment of similar units in areas where they do not currently exist.

***What do you and/or your party intend to do to deliver on these commitments to this community?***

## **Young people - What commitments were given in the National Drugs Strategy?**

### **Action 49.**

To develop a protocol, where appropriate, for the treatment of under 18 year old presenting with serious drug problems especially in light of the legal and other dilemmas which are posed for professionals involved in this work. In this context, a Working Group should be established to develop this protocol. The group should also look at issues such as availability of appropriate residential and day treatment programmes, education and training rehabilitative measures and harm reduction responses for young people. The Group should report by mid-2002.

### **Action 51.**

To have a clearly co-ordinated and well-publicised plan in place for each Health Board area by end 2002 for the provision of a comprehensive and locally accessible range of treatment for drug misusers, particularly for young people, the planning of such services to be linked to the national profile of drug misuse amongst young people and to areas where usage is most prevalent. These plans to be implemented by end 2004.

### **Action 59.**

To secure easy access to counselling services for young people seeking assistance with drug related problems, especially given the correlation between suicide and drug misuse and the growing incidence of suicide amongst young people.

***What do you and/or your party intend to do to deliver on these commitments to this community?***

