

Drugs in Local Communities

Election '07

See overleaf
for some of
the key
issues for
Local
Communities



Citywide

Drugs Crisis
Campaign

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Local candidate Name: _____

Party: _____

1. Up until 2002 there was a full-time Minister with Responsibility for Drugs

Q. Will you commit to reinstating a Full-Time Government Minister with sole responsibility for tackling the Drugs Crisis?

Yes **No** **Alternative** _____

2. The budget for 2007 gave no additional funding for local drug services at a time when everyone agrees that drugs are causing massive problems in communities across the country

Q. Will you make available additional funds in 2007 for the development of local drug services?

Yes **No** **Alternative** _____

3. The provision of rehabilitation services is critical to the success of the National Drugs Strategy – the rehab working group will shortly produce its report and recommendations

Q. Will you make available an immediate budget to resource the recommendations of the Rehabilitation Working Group?

Yes **No** **Alternative** _____

4. Effective community policing is an essential part of the efforts to control the supply of drugs in local communities – although the National Drugs Strategy commits to setting up Community Policing Fora in fourteen areas - this has not yet happened.

Q. Will you implement immediately the actions in the National Drugs Strategy on Community Policing?

Yes **No** **Alternative** _____

5. The partnership approach, through the Local Drug Taskforces that underpinned the National Drugs Strategy has been seriously damaged over the past three years.

Q. Will you commit to work in Full Partnership with Local Communities on tackling the drugs crisis?

Yes **No** **Alternative** _____

Ask them:

What do you propose to do about the problems Cocaine is causing in our community?

Will you implement immediately and fully the National Drugs Strategy?

How will you deal with the violence and intimidation that is leaving our communities terrorised?

All evidence shows that most drug users are using a combination of drugs both legal and illegal. Heroin continues to have a major grip on many communities and cocaine is causing wide-spread problems throughout the country.

Cocaine

A recent Citywide survey found that local community drug projects have experienced a major increase in people presenting with cocaine as their main drug of choice since 2004.

In 2004, 14% of the projects reported seeing clients with what they then described as problematic cocaine use - now 62% of projects are seeing clients with cocaine as their main drug of choice. 50% of projects are seeing an overall increase in cocaine use amongst their clients since 2004

The findings of the Citywide survey are supported by national data on cocaine: In 2005 there were 968 cocaine seizures.

In 2005, cocaine-related prosecutions accounted for 13% of the total, surpassing heroin-related prosecutions (11%) for the first time.

Heroin

As communities struggle with the impact of cocaine, there are also major fears about the impact of increasing availability of heroin. Heroin is now so readily available, even in rural areas, that two of the biggest seizures to date of the drug here in recent months had no impact on its availability or price on the street. Provisional Garda seizure figures to the end of October 2006 show an increase in seizures of heroin and cocaine. According to these figures in the first 10 months of 2006 heroin worth €20 million and cocaine worth €14 million has been taken in significant seizures.

The recent tragic deaths of heroin addicts illustrate the terrible cost to people their families and communities from our failure to deal properly with the drugs crisis. People in our communities continue to die from drugs. Each year more names are being added to the lists of the dead at the memorial services that now take place in communities' right across the city.

Violence & Intimidation

There were 25 gun related deaths in the state during 2006. Organised crime is at its highest point ever according to Gardai who have expressed "considerable concern" at the cycle of gun violence in Dublin that saw five men shot dead in six days. Local communities are reporting:

- Families are living in fear of dealers and loan sharks
- Threats have been made by dealers and lenders to burn down family homes

Key commitments given in 2002 as part of the National Drug Strategy have not been met - these include setting up the Community Policing Fora initiative in fourteen local communities and targeting of assets of middle-ranking criminals involved in drug dealing.

There is a National Drugs Strategy – Implement it!

