

Health Economics
Arrest referral scheme**Date**

2004 onwards

Location

East Glasgow

Key PartnersGlasgow City Council
Strathclyde Police
Greater Glasgow NHS
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In addition to work within the Public Health Department, the health economics team has linked up with a range of other organisations to carry out pieces of work in recent years. An example is given below and also at series no 004/5 – Hepatitis B vaccination of S1 school pupils

Arrest Referral Scheme

Several economic appraisals have been published which suggest that treatment of drug misuse can bring about considerable benefits to the economy. One study concluded that for every £1 a programme spent on treatment, a saving of £3 was made on criminal justice costs and victim costs of crime.¹

The point of arrest has been identified as one way in which problem professional drug and alcohol workers can target drug- and alcohol- using offenders. Arrest Referral is a scheme that targets drug and alcohol users who offend to encourage them to enter into needs-based treatment and care services. One such scheme is currently being set up by police, health, criminal justice and social work staff in the East end of Glasgow and we have been asked to contribute to an economic evaluation of the scheme. Using prospectively collected data from police, health and criminal justice sectors, the aim is to assess the cost-effectiveness of the scheme in terms of its crime-reduction potential. The results of the evaluation will be available early in 2006.

¹ Healey A, Knapp M, Astin J et al Economic burden of drug dependency-social costs incurred by drug users at intake to the National Treatment Outcome Research Study *British Journal of Psychiatry* 1998; 173:160-165