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The Road to Recovery: Towards a new National Drugs Strategy

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Shaping the new strategy

- Background of significant political controversy
- Existing strategy due to be refreshed
- Body of work to build on, e.g. methadone review, ADAT stocktake
- New Government, new approach: focus on outcomes
- Lack of clarity and accountability

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Recovery

- Services for problematic drug users should be designed to promote **recovery**
- Recovery is not an event, it is a personal process, different for every individual
- Recovery processes can include both harm reduction and abstinence
- Promoting recovery sets demands on the commissioning and delivery of services

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Comprehensive approach to prevention

- New emphasis on integrated approach across Government and across services
- Recognising contribution of all policy areas to Government's strategic objectives
- Education for school-age children has a major part to play
- But many other aspects to prevention: early years, youth services, tackling poverty

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Criminal Justice and prisons

- Already announced piloting of extension to DTTO approach
- Government aim to find better alternatives to short-term sentences
- Focus on throughcare for those entering and leaving prison

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Delivery

- Specific issues around delivery of local drugs strategies, so strategy will report on work in train to reform delivery arrangements
- Goal is to bring about:
 - clarity in the strategic functions of local partnerships;
 - an outcomes-based approach at a local level;
 - firm links between local partnerships and national accountability arrangements;
 - national support for local partnerships.

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Evidence

- Need to know more about the challenge we are facing, and how best we can meet it
- Establishing an evidence sub-group of SACDM
- Aim to help local service providers identify what they can do to achieve outcomes

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Roadmap

- Above all, strategy is about setting a national programme of reform in train
- Will include a full implementation plan
- Will set out basis for ongoing engagement of all involved in tackling drug misuse in Scotland