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Dear Colleagues,

Memorandum of Understanding between the DfES and the NTA

The DfES and the NTA are pleased to inform you of a new working agreement between our two organisations that is aimed at improving substance misuse treatment for young people. This agreement is outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding that is attached for your information.

This new partnership approach results from Ministerial interest in improving young people's access to and the effectiveness of young people's treatment. This need to improve young people's provision was recently highlighted in the results of the Review of specialist young people's treatment system by the DFES/NTA in February 2007.

NTA regional teams have begun to plan how they will deliver their new role that is expected to provide enhanced support to the young people's treatment system while continuing to ensure effective integration with the wider children and young people's

NTA

More treatment, better treatment, fairer treatment

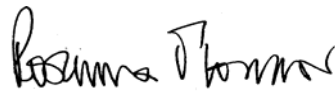
agendas. The first milestone in this plan will be to develop guidance to help support the needs assessment and planning process for next year and will be communicated via a series of meetings to take place over the next three months in each region with all key stakeholders – in particular with the lead commissioners for young peoples substance misuse service provision in each partnership area and commissioners of wider children's services provision in each area. The NTA are also developing a suite of guidance that will become available from September to October 2007 that will support best practice.

We look forward to this new collaborative relationship being of benefit to you and young people's services in your area.

Yours sincerely,



Marcus Bell
Head of TPU & Cross Whitehall Relations
DfES



Rosanna O'Connor
Director of regional Management
NTA

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