

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 23RD FEBRUARY 2009

**REPORT ON:** REFORMING AND REVITALISING - REPORT OF THE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PENALTIES

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

**REPORT NO:** 116 - 2009

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 A report on the Government's review of penal policy, Reforming and Revitalising, carried out in 2007, was approved by the Social Work and Health Committee on 6 February 2008.
- 1.2 The report highlighted the potential implications for delivering community penalties, actions that could be taken locally and the need for ongoing consultations with Community Planning Networks.
- 1.3 As instructed, this report now provides Committee with a 12 month update on the review and actions that have continued to be taken to implement the 4 themes in the review of;
- reparation and payback
  - rehabilitation and reintegration
  - quality and enforcement
  - community engagement

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee;

- 2.1 note and endorse the progress of action being taken locally to implement Reforming and Revitalising.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 None.

### **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 4.1 The Government continues to be committed to developing a coherent penal policy that reserves prisons for serious offenders and deals with lower risk offenders in the community through visible, restrictive and effective community penalties. A report by the Prisons Commission, Scotland's Choice, was considered by the Social Work and Health Committee in August 2008 (Report No 413-2008) and the Government have recently published its plan for a coherent offender management strategy in Protecting Scotland's Communities: Fair, Fast and Flexible Justice (Report No 93-2009). This report provides an update on work which has been undertaken locally to strengthen community disposals as follows;

#### **4.1.1      Reparation and Payback**

Social Work services to the Court have recently been strengthened through the involvement of Community Service Officers in order to ensure the immediate induction of offenders and the commencement of Orders on the day of sentence. The Community Service Team now encompasses both Community Service and Supervised Attendance Orders and, in order to improve completion times, work placements have been increased from 1 to 2 days a week. Text messaging has also been introduced in order to minimise non-compliance. Additionally a Programme which will allow up to 15% of appropriate offenders who are subject to unpaid work to benefit from education, training and employment guidance has been introduced. Further work is planned, in partnership with Local Community Planning Partnerships, on the type and extent of available work placements in order to ensure such placements reflect the needs of communities across the City.

#### **4.1.2      Rehabilitation and Reintegration**

The Service continues to deliver an accredited Community Sex Offender Group Work Programme to medium to high risk sex offenders and has contributed to an ongoing review of the delivery of offence focused group work programmes for other offenders across the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership. It is anticipated that this work will be continued through the Community Justice Authority as further programmes become available nationally, including a programme for perpetrators of domestic violence. In respect of domestic violence, additional funds have already been secured to establish a support service to the partners of those who are undergoing a domestic violence programme and this service is being developed across the Criminal Justice Partnership. Further work to review the availability, targeting and effectiveness of substance misuse services is ongoing, in partnership with colleagues in Health.

#### **4.1.3      Quality and Enforcement**

Revised National Standards will be published later this year. A recent local audit of high risk offenders showed adherence to current requirements and audits of the general offending population will continue throughout 2009. The work of the national Performance Improvement Strategy Group continues. However, the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership has introduced a new performance management and audit framework and analysis of the current range of key performance indicators shows improvements in most areas in the last 6 months, with ongoing action plans in place. The national roll out of a consistent risk assessment tool, Level of Service Case Management Inventory (LSCMI), has been delayed until 2010. The Service continues to use recognised risk assessment tools for sexual offenders and have jointly risk assessed all registered sex offenders with Tayside Police.

#### **4.1.4      Community Engagement and Involvement**

In order to increase public awareness and involvement the Service has consulted with all 8 Local Community Planning Partnerships on the use of unpaid work in their respective areas. Projects resulting from this include graffiti removal at Whitfield shops and repainting at MacAlpine Road shops. Other work completed across the City includes repainting Menzieshill Community Centre and the Riverside Sports Pavilion. A bid by the Community Justice Authority to promote the visibility of unpaid work was unsuccessful but Dundee City Council has pro-actively engaged with the media and received positive press attention in both the local and national media. A Community Service newsletter has recently been distributed to key partners, which provides an update on work completed and invites suggestions for future developments. Further work is planned to highlight work carried out by offenders within the City.

- 4.2 These developments will make an important contribution to the aims and objectives of both Reforming and Revitalising and Protecting Scotland's Communities. Work in respect of each of the above themes, including monitoring and evaluating their local effectiveness, will continue to be progressed.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Head of Finance and the Chief Officer of the Community Justice Authority.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 The Scottish Government's Review of Community Penalties, Reforming and Revitalising, published on 27 November 2007, the Prisons Commission Report on Scotland's Choice, published in July 2008 and the Scottish Government Report on Protecting Scotland's Communities: Fair, Fast and Flexible Justice, were consulted in the preparation of this report.

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Date: 2nd February 2009