

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Social Work Committee – 17th April 2006

REPORT ON: Intensive Support and Monitoring Services (ISMS)

REPORT BY: Director of Social Work

REPORT NO: 228 - 2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report outlines the development, implementation and the progress of the Intensive Support and Monitoring Service in Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Social Work Committee: -

Note and approve the content of the report.

2.2 Instructs the Director of Social Work to provide a further report 12 months after the implementation of Intensive Support and Monitoring Services.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications attached to this report.

3.2 The full costs for implementing ISMS has been met by the Scottish Executive. Funding has been secured and extended to September 2007.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This service addresses issues of persistent and serious offending by young people in Dundee. Therefore, the principles and the outcomes of ISMS promotes improved community safety whilst balancing the social, education and health needs of young people being retained in their own community

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 ISMS is a direct alternative to secure accommodation and seeks to retain young people at home and in their community. Therefore by definition, it promotes and demands social inclusion, equality and opportunity for the young person and his/her family.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

Background

- 6.1 This report should be read in conjunction with the Social Work committee report prepared on ISMS dated April 2004.
- 6.2 Section 135 of the Anti-Social Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 amended section 70 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 to enable children's hearings to impose, as a condition of a supervision requirement, a "movement restriction condition". The condition can only be imposed if the child meets the secure care criteria.
- 6.3 Although a condition restricting movement is introduced through the Anti-Social Behaviour Act, ISMS strengthens the role of the children's hearings system in supporting the most troubled and troublesome young people in our communities.
- 6.4 Electronic monitoring linked to an intensive support package and monitoring services (ISMS) as part of a supervision requirement made by a Children's Hearing provides a supportive and closely supervised structure for the young person. Within this structure, comprehensive and intensive work can take place to address a young person's needs and the reasons why they meet secure criteria. During the period of intervention the main aim is to reduce the risks and the offending behaviour that will stop the young person requiring secure care. This approach seeks to maximize the benefits that come from retaining and supporting the young person within the community.
- 6.5 There are four basic components to the support package provided by ISMS:
- A range of structured intervention programmes that address a young person's assessed needs. The intensity of the intervention will be appropriate to the assessed need.
 - Full time education and vocational training opportunities;
 - A 24 hour/7 day service able to provide support and crisis intervention for the young person and family/carers out with the hours of normal structured service intervention.
 - Respite and 'time-out' services, which can provide respite both as part of planned service intervention and as a crisis response.

7 KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- 7.1 ISMS became operational in July 2005. Between the dates of the Programme Manager coming into post (June 2005) and the operational date, a solid infrastructure for the provision of ISMS was established across disciplines. Establishing this multi-disciplinary infrastructure and the preparation of various working protocols/service levels agreements was essential to the success of the programme.

- 7.2 Dundee City Council predicted that Dundee would implement ten ISMS cases in a twelve-month period. At the date of writing this report, Dundee City council has implemented five ISMS cases in six-months.
- 7.3 ISMS has formally assessed 16 young people. Three of the sixteen young people assessed were female.
- 7.4 ISMS has successfully been used to support the transition between secure accommodation and home in two of the cases.
- 7.5 The ISMS assessment process has revealed that young people referred all had a history of criminal propensity, a history of disengaging with previous supports and evidence of being out with the control of their respective main care givers.

8 PROGRESS

- 8.1 Local evaluation to date suggests that the numbers of young people in secure care has not dropped. However, the average length of time spent within secure care has dropped from 55-days to 32-days. However, it should be noted that this evaluation also includes the first six-months where ISMS was not operational. Further and ongoing evaluation at a local and national level will provide a more accurate assessment on the impact of ISMS on the number of secure places sought.
- 8.2 Without ISMS, all five ISMS cases would have been subject to consideration for secure accommodation. Therefore, ISMS and the supports that ISMS brings has directly prevented five young people from being placed in secure accommodation, and has been successful in retaining the young person in their own community.
- 8.3 To date, all young people subject to this service have managed to either bring about a reduction if not a cessation in offending behaviour, have sustained an educational/vocational placement and managed to sustain contact with the appropriate supports.

9 STRATEGIC PLANNING

- 9.1 For strategic planning purposes, ISMS continues to be evaluated at a national and local level. The Scottish Executive will consider the ongoing evaluation process in May 2007 and thereafter, make a decision about the longer-term future and the potential national rollout of ISMS.
- 9.2 The ISMS steering group, which is attended by all agencies across disciplines, meets every second month to review the implementation and progress of ISMS, including the joint protocols and collaborative working.

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Director of Education have been consulted in the preparation of this report. This service straddles both the Children Services and Youth Justice Strategy Groups. As a consequence, members of this group have been consulted in the preparation of this and other interim reports/evaluations.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 None.

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Director of Social Work

Date: 7th April 2006