

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Policy & Resources Committee - 28 January 2008

REPORT ON: Progress Briefing on the Reduction of on Street Prostitution

REPORT BY: A D Boffey, Co-Chairperson, Dundee Community Safety Partnership
P McIlquham, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services)

REPORT NO: 30-2008

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update Committee on the progress in planning for initiatives to reduce the frequency of on street prostitution in Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1.1 Welcome the award of external funding from Scottish Government of £200,000 to support this initiative.
- 2.1.2 Note the progress of the inter-agency group and approve the actions outlined in the draft Action Plan as per Appendix 1.
- 2.1.3 Agree that Press Briefings, where required, be jointly agreed by Press Officers of Dundee City Council and Tayside Police.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The expenditure involved in the draft Acton Plan can be met from external grant of £200,000 from the Scottish Government. Consent has been received to vire grant to 2008-2009 where appropriate.

4.0 CONTEXT

- 4.1 Scottish Government has identified external funding to assist Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee to reduce the frequency of street prostitution by the development of collaborative initiatives by Dundee Partnership member organisations.
- 4.2 An award of £200,000 per City has been allocated in 2007-2008 together with consent to vire expenditure to 2008-2009.
- 4.3 The funding award guidance accompanying the Award restricts expenditure to the following themes:
- Protecting affected communities.
 - Facilitating harm reduction
 - Influencing public opinion
 - Preventing vulnerable groups being involved
 - Challenging attitudes which lead to the abuse of women physically and sexually through street prostitution.

The above themes cohere with central government's strategic community safety priority in reducing violence especially directed at women/young people and children.

5.0 PRESENT POSITION

- 5.1 Dundee Community Safety Partnership has been commissioned to co-ordinate the response to this initiative and has formed a focus group to advise and co-ordinate action. Inspector M Duncan, the Co-Chairperson of the Partnership, leads this Group.
- 5.2 The Group have met on two occasions and have co-ordinated a partnership forum to establish existing partner input, identify gaps and co-ordinate further opportunities for joint working.
- 5.3 The focus group has representation from NHS Scotland, Tayside Police, Dundee City Council, the Voluntary Sector and specialist harm reduction fora.
- 5.4 In drafting an initial Action Plan the Group have identified the award funding guidance and the emphasis of on street prostitution. Within their planning they are conscious that action may displace activity to off street activity and as far as possible attempts will be made to avoid this consequence. It is, however, impossible to give guarantees over this issue.
- 5.5 It is vital that this award is used appropriately to add value to existing inputs from key organisations and not to create a dependency over future funding. It is a finite allocation where longer term sustainability requires to be contained within partners existing resources. The emphasis is, therefore, on improving collaborative working partnerships and pathways of care.
- 5.6 The Group have noted that the demand reduction aspect of this problem will continue to be addressed by the following:
- Revised operational Police guidance in policing on street prostitution incorporating new kerb crawling legislation.
 - Dundee City Council Antisocial Behaviour Initiatives (ASBO Team, Police and Community Safety Wardens) targeting intelligence gathering over kerb crawling for warning and enforcement. Appropriate publicity and procedures are being developed to incorporate kerb crawling into ASB legislation.
 - A funded media campaign to highlight the changes in legislation and to tackle demand. This will be co-ordinated at Scottish Government level through an advisory group (4 Cities) on which Dundee has representation.
- 5.7 The Dundee Action Plan 2007-2008 is outlined in Appendix 1 together with indicative funding.

The appointment of a short term co-ordinator is proposed to scope and expand the remit/content/outcome and evaluation measurement of the Action Plan. Appropriate consents will be initiated to approve both the job description, grade and person specification by the host employer partner which has yet to be agreed.

6.0 MEDIA COVERAGE

- 6.1 Due to the sensitive and potentially emotive nature of this initiative it is recommended that all press statements will be jointly agreed by Tayside Police and Dundee City Council media personnel.
- 6.2 The location intelligence is known and limited and adverse publicity related to this problem will not assist the initiative in realising its objectives and may, in fact, reduce the impact of police enforcement.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

At this point in time there are no major issues but there may be a need for an equality impact assessment to be more fully explored by the organisation commissioned to deliver certain of the Action Plan services.

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 Internal

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Head of Finance, Directors of Housing, Leisure & Communities and Social Work and Head of Public Relations have been consulted on the content of this report.

8.2 External

The Divisional Commander Tayside Police and the Dundee Community Safety Partnership Sub Group representatives have contributed to the report content.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPER

- 9.1 The following background paper as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 was relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report:

"Funding For Work To Tackle Street Prostitution and Guidance for Local Authorities and their Community Planning Partners on Tackling Street Prostitution", Scottish Executive, 20 June 2007.

A D BOFFEY
CO-CHAIRPERSON, DUNDEE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
12 DECEMBER 2007

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DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (SUPPORT SERVICES)
12 DECEMBER 2007

APPENDIX 1

Action No	Description of Action	Next Steps	By Whom	Estimated Costs
1	Produce an Action Plan for the Initiative to reflect Scottish Government funding criteria, outcome measurement etc.	Refine gap analysis of existing services, identify potential to fill service sustainability. Identify opportunities for demand reduction, diversion from activity and care support.	Partnership Agencies Co-ordinator	Not applicable until Co-ordinator scopes total needs.
2	Establish a fixed term post of Co-ordinator	Explore secondment opportunities, refine job and person specifications. Recruit Co-ordinator to assist with Action 1.	Lead Agency to be decided	£50,000
3	Identify and offer training for partnership forum services to improve responses to this problem. The emphasis to be to explore partnership working and inter-agency co-operation.	Identify capacity of partnership forum to offer training input. Scope external training providers who have offered successful and relevant training. Consult Scottish Cities Partners.	Co-ordinator plus Partnership agencies.	£10,000
4	Commission an On Street Contact Team of Sessional Workers to assist participant diversion and care pathways options.	There is no current outreach targeting providers of this activity. It is planned that existing partnership agencies may be able to assemble a small Team to undertake this resource on a rotational basis for up to 12 hours per week in the evening.	To be agreed.	£75,000 - £100,000 includes support costs, phones, IT, transport assistance etc.
			Total	£160,000

Total Allocation £200,000

Draft 1 Action Plan Estimates £160,000

Balance £ 40,000

To be assessed: Public Relations Materials
 Signposting Diversionary Services