

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 21 May 2001
PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE –
21 May 2001**

**REPORT ON: SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICE
(ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW POSTS)**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

REPORT NO: 319 - 2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to expand the range of services available to the Courts that will contribute to the increased effectiveness of existing services.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Social Work Committee approves the content of this report.

2.2 It is also recommended that the Personnel and Management Services Committee approve the establishment of the following posts:-

- 1 post of Senior Social Worker, graded SCP35-38 (£23,430 - £25,476)
- 2 posts of Social Worker, graded SCP 27-35 (£18,378 - £23,430)
- 2 posts of Criminal Justice Assistant, graded AP2, SCP 19-22 (£14,484 - £15,717)
- 1 post of Community Service Supervisor, graded AP2, SCP 19-22 (£14,484 - £15,717)
- 1 post of Clerical Assistant, graded GS1/2, SCP3-12 (£9,180 - £12,399)

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the above recommendations will be £143,000 in a full financial year, which will be met from the Criminal Justice Social Work budget.

The Scottish Executive wholly funds Criminal Justice Social Work and has increased grant funding of the service by 12% for the year 2001-2002. This allows the service to increase the staffing establishment detailed in this report.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 By improving the range and quality of services available to address offending behaviour these recommendations support key theme 9 which acknowledges the right of "people to live without fear of personal violence from crime or persecution".

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Criminal Justice Services in Dundee aim to comply with the Council's Equal Opportunity Policy in all areas of work.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 The Courts in Dundee have consistently made extensive and effective use of the Criminal Justice Service for many years. An analysis of the pattern of demand suggests that the service can expect the high level of demand to continue.

6.2 The demand for Community Service Orders from the Courts is particularly high (54% increase in Orders in the last five years) and shows no sign of reducing. To effectively satisfy the national standards for Community Service we require a further two Community Service Supervisors who would provide additional capacity especially for weekend placements where there is particular pressure because of the growing number of clients who are employed or in full-time training. It is important for the credibility of the service that we maintain a level of supervisor cover which is able to accommodate the high number of Community Service Orders imposed.

6.3 The Scottish Justice Department have issued a statement of priorities to Councils to assist with the planning of services in Criminal Justice Social Work. The document identifies four areas of priority to be addressed in the service plan for the next three years.

These are:

- Drug related crime
- Women offenders
- Young offenders
- Diversion Schemes

In the last year the Criminal Justice Service has informed the Committee of a number of service developments which focus on the areas of priority defined by the executive.

There is a new groupwork team which offers a range of group based programmes for all offenders and approval has been given by Committee for an arrest referral scheme for drug related offending.

The service has recently appointed a diversion from prosecution social worker, and has agreed to fund one of the social worker posts within the CHOICE Project for persistent young offenders in support of the aims of the Youth Justice Strategy (described in Committee Report 772-2000). In addition to this the service has a women only Community Service Order team and plan to become the first Council in Scotland to offer a specialised group for women who are subject to a Supervised Attendance order.

The increase in staffing will allow us to both consolidate the practice improvements already achieved and to plan for future initiatives which focus on the executive priority groups.

6.4 The additional posts will allow the formation of another Social Work team which will contribute to increased effectiveness in the supervision and support of staff who work with potentially dangerous offenders.

Further service improvement will be derived from the appointment of Criminal Justice Assistants. They will have a particular responsibility for young people who offend to encourage, motivate and support them to take advantage of the employment, education and training opportunities which exist within the community. In this way the service would expect the young people to gain stability in their lives and the confidence to reject an offending lifestyle.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Consultation has also taken place with the Trade Unions.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

9.0 SIGNATURE

Director of Social Work _____

Date _____

Director of Personnel & Management Services _____

Date _____

11 May 2001