

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Social Work Committee - 18 September 2006

**REPORT ON:** Introduction of Multi- Agency Public Protection Arrangements

**REPORT BY:** Director of Social Work

**REPORT NO:** 509-2006

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs) which are to be introduced across Scotland from April 2007. The introduction of MAPPAs will strengthen arrangements for the assessment and management of high-risk offenders and will result in changes to the way in which areas review such risks.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that members:

- note the legislative changes and work undertaken thus far.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no current financial implications for the Council however, it is anticipated that some additional funding will be made available to fund the posts of MAPPA co-ordinator and administrative support. This will be made available to the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership through the 100% funding arrangements for social work services in the criminal justice system.

### **4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The objective of ensuring people live without fear of personal violence from crime is supported by the introduction of MAPPAs.

### **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

- 5.1 None

## **6 MAIN TEXT**

- 6.1 The Management of Offenders Etc (Scotland) Act provides a statutory function for Local Authorities, Scottish Prison Service, Police and Health to establish joint arrangements for the assessment and management of the risk posed by certain sex offenders, violent offenders and mentally disordered offenders who pose a risk of harm to the public.
- 6.2 Responsible authorities within each local authority area are required to keep arrangements under review, publish and submit an annual report to the Community Justice Authority who will then submit the report to the National Advisory Body.
- 6.3 From September 2006, Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPAs) will be introduced across Scotland. MAPPAs have operated in England and Wales since 1999. The MAPPA model introduces a three-tier approach to the management of offenders which enables agencies to target resources at those offenders assessed as presenting the highest risks and helps to ensure that offenders have appropriate management plans in place. It offers a consistency of approach across local authorities and police forces.
- 6.4 Detailed guidance in relation to the operation of MAPPAs has recently been issued and agencies, particularly criminal justice social work and the police, will be required to review existing arrangements with a view to implementing MAPPAs. This will require a change to the way case conferences for high-risk offenders are conducted. Arrangements for sex offenders will be introduced first.
- 6.5 Each Community Justice Authority will receive funding to appoint a MAPPA co-ordinator plus administrative support. The MAPPA co-ordinator will be responsible for co-ordinating MAPPA arrangements on behalf of the responsible authorities. They will be responsible to a lead officer, yet to be identified, within one of the local authorities and not the Chief Officer of the Community Justice Authority.
- They will collate information, co-ordinate MAPPA meetings and attend meetings for those offenders deemed to present the greatest risks. The administrative support will assist in the co-ordination and minute taking.
- 6.6 Work is ongoing with Tayside Police to ensure a consistency of approach across the three local authority areas and procedures are being developed which closely mirror the MAPPA framework.
- An inter agency officer group representing the 3 authorities has been established to progress the implementation of MAPPAs and oversee the developing approach to high-risk offenders. This group will report to the Community Justice Authority.
- 6.7 The introduction of MAPPAs, developments such as standardised risk assessments, and the planned introduction of an accredited group work programme for sexual offenders will lead to changes in the way high risk offenders are assessed and managed. Criminal Justices Services within Dundee are restructuring the provision of social work services to create a team dedicated to working with high-risk offenders. Although specialist police officers already operate from criminal justice premises the

establishment of a dedicated social work team will improve approaches to the assessment and management of high-risk offenders who are on statutory supervision. Officers will also work closely with staff from the Tay Project who deliver focused interventions to adult male sexual offenders across the Criminal Justice Partnership. The Tay Project are about to introduce a new groupwork programme which has been accredited by the Scottish Accreditation Panel and additional funding from the Scottish Executive has been received to progress this initiative.

The creation of the new team will also enable the service to ensure training is appropriately targeted and that effective working relationships are developed with the Police and Scottish Prison Service. It is hoped that the team will be in place by October 2006.

- 6.8 It is recognised that further work is needed in relation to developing information sharing protocols which will underpin much of the work with high risk and other offenders and the Chief Officer be tasked with developing such protocols.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Partnership Management Team have been consulted in preparation of this report.

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 MAPPA Draft Guidance issued by the Scottish Executive. Report to Community Justice Authority - Management of Offenders Etc (Scotland) Act - Assessing and Managing Risks Posed by Certain Offenders.

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Date: 11 September 2006