

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 23 August 2004

REPORT ON: INTENSIVE SUPPORT AND MONITORING SERVICES

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 580- 2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The report advises members that Dundee has been invited by the Scottish Executive to pilot new arrangements for the intensive support and monitoring of high risk children and young people, who may become persistently involved in offending behaviour, and seeks approval to implement the scheme within the City.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:-
 - 2.1.1 note and approve Dundee City Council's involvement in the Intensive Support and Monitoring pilot scheme;
 - 2.1.2 authorise the Director of Social Work to commission services as required from appropriate voluntary sector organisations, subject to Scottish Executive funding;

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Scottish Executive has agreed to meet all reasonable costs to Dundee City Council in piloting this initiative.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The proposals in this report promote improved safety for local communities and the citizens of Dundee.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposed actions outlined in this report seek to promote the improved equality of opportunity and social inclusion of children and young people who are involved in risk taking and anti-social behaviour.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 In May 2003, the new Scottish Executive published its programme for government, "A Partnership For A Better Scotland: Partnership Agreement". These proposals included a commitment to tackle anti-social behaviour. In June 2003, the proposals were published in the consultation document "Putting Our Communities First: A Strategy For Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour". The proposals were introduced into the Scottish Parliament in October 2003 as the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Bill, which was passed in June 2004. One of the measures contained within the legislation is that of the extension of electronic monitoring ("tagging") to under 16s, via an Order of a Court or Children's Hearing.
- 6.2 The Scottish Executive is now implementing this measure. The Executive's guidance indicates that all children and young people subject to such an Order will receive "Intensive Support and Monitoring Services" (ISMS), which will offer a high level of support to, and supervision of, the child. It is anticipated that such a "rounded" package of measures will include a high level of time per week that is organised for the child, i.e. where the child's whereabouts are known and their activity is structured and constructive.
- 6.3 The criteria for receiving such an Order are that the child,
 " having previously absconded, is likely to abscond and, if he absconds, it is likely that his physical, mental or moral welfare will be at risk.." or,
 "...is likely to injure himself or some other person".
 It is estimated that Dundee may have up to 10 children per year who would meet the criteria and who would therefore be suitable for ISMS.
- 6.4 Pilot sites are required to have an existing infrastructure of intensive support services, and a strong track record in planning and delivering appropriate services for challenging children/ young people and children/ young people who offend. Dundee's inter-agency youth justice strategy group will be utilised to ensure that ISMS will be well planned and implemented. Such implementation work will build on other successful youth justice initiatives in Dundee such as the "Fast Track Hearings" project for children involved in persistent offending.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Depute Chief Executive (Finance) have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Consultation has also been undertaken with all the agencies and organisations represented on the Youth Justice Strategy Group.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

Alan G Baird
 Director of Social Work

Date: 12 August 2004

