

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Social Work Committee - 19 December 2005

**REPORT ON:** Performance Inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work – Progress Report

**REPORT BY:** Director of Social Work

**REPORT NO:** 724 - 2005

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the progress being made in relation to the Inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work Services across the Tayside Partnership the details of which were approved by the Social Work Committee in April 2005 (report 245-2005).
- 1.2 The Partnership submitted an Action Plan detailing how it proposed to progress the recommendations contained in the Inspection Report to the Social Work Services Inspection Agency in 2005. This was fully accepted and a further report will be submitted at the end of June 2006 detailing progress. The Social Work Inspection Agency will decide at this point as to whether further inspection is necessary.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee

- 2.1 Note the progress to date.
- 2.2 Require the Director of Social Work to prepare a report in June 2006 detailing progress.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for Dundee City Council.

### **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The policy objective of reducing crime and ensuring people are safe and feel safe are reflected in the report.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None.

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 6.1 The Inspection report identified a number of areas of good practice and also areas, which required attention. The Partnership is committed to developing the Service in line with the report's recommendations and will review progress on a quarterly basis. Since the Inspection the Partnership has also undertaken an audit of medium and high-risk sex offenders. This audit shows a slight improvement in performance and the required actions identified from this audit have been incorporated into the overall Action Plan.
- 6.2 Within Dundee specific issues were raised in relation to the format and content of social enquiry reports. A standardised format for these reports has now been introduced across the Partnership, staff within Dundee have been issued with updated operational guidance and key performance indicators have been put in place to monitor adherence to agreed standards.
- 6.3 Concern was expressed about the lack of a uniform approach to risk assessment across the Partnership. A review of risk assessment processes is on going. Approaches to sexual offenders have been prioritised and, in line with national guidance, a standardised tool for risk assessing sex offenders, Risk Matrix 2000, has now been adopted. Social work staff are undergoing a programme of training jointly with police officers. While work in relation to other forms of risk assessment is ongoing it is anticipated that there will be national directives in the near future, which will influence this process.
- 6.4 A management information portfolio has been introduced across the Partnership to ensure consistent approaches to information gathering and quality assurance. Additional staff have been appointed within Perth & Kinross and Dundee. Part of their roles will involve quality assurance, developing approaches to Best Value and adopting a more co-ordinated approach to staff development and training.
- 6.5 The Partnership has agreed a number of priorities for development which include co-ordination of approaches to domestic abuse and ensuring consistent approaches to the assessment and management of risks posed by sexual offenders. Work in relation to this is on going.
- 6.6 Priority areas for the coming months include:
- training in forensic interviewing;
  - developing pre-release assessments and planning for long term prisoners;
  - implementing new approach to risk management;
  - address issues in community service;
  - undertake training needs analysis across the Partnership.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

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

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Performance Inspection of Tayside Criminal Justice Social Work – Social Work Services Inspectorate 2005 and Committee Report 245-2005.

Alan G Baird  
Director of Social Work

Date: 9 December 2005