

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

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

**REPORT ON:** Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership Annual Report 2004-5 and Action Plan 2006-7

**REPORT BY:** Director of Social Work

**REPORT NO:** 729 - 2005

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

- 1.1 This report summarises the key points arising from the annual report of criminal justice social work services and outlines the strategic issues for 2006-2007.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report.
- 2.2 Requires that the Director of Social Work prepare a report for Committee outlining the implications arising from the Management of Offenders Bill.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications as Criminal Justice Social Work Services are 100% funded by the Scottish Executive.

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

- 4.1 None

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 6.1 Criminal Justice Social Work Services within Dundee City are provided in partnership with Angus and Perth and Kinross Councils as part of the Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership. The Scottish Executive requires an annual report on the performance of Criminal Justice Services and an outline of plans for the coming year. In recognition of the imminent re-organisation of the provision of local authority Criminal Justice Social Work Services the plan this year is brief, summarising key areas for development. A copy of the Report and Action Plan has been placed in the Members' Lounge.
- 6.2 The Plan reflects that workloads within Dundee, and across the Partnership, have continued to be high particularly in relation to social enquiry reports, community service, probation and supervised attendance orders. In addition to this a number of areas have been developed within Dundee including:
- the establishment of a throughcare and resettlement service for ex-prisoners;
  - piloting of community reparation orders which are aimed at offenders involved in anti-social behaviour;
  - piloting of the ViSOR (violent offender sexual offender database) which improves communication between police and social work for certain high risk offenders; and
  - Dundee has also supported five supervisors through the Scottish Progression Award for Community Service, which is unique in Scotland.
- 6.3 In 2004-05 the Partnership was subject to an Inspection by the Social Work Inspection Agency (Committee Report No 245-2005) which highlighted both strengths and areas for development. The Partnership has also recently undertaken an audit of practice and performance in relation to sexual offenders (Committee Report No 625-2005). An Action Plan has been devised incorporating the recommendations from both the audit and the inspection and this will form the basis of much of the on-going work for the coming year. This includes the development of a consistent approach to the assessment and management of high risk offenders with Tayside Police, a standardised approach to the preparation of social enquiry reports, improved management information and the introduction of more structured offence-focussed work for those on probation.
- 6.4 A significant priority has been training social work staff in assessment techniques for sexual offenders and this is likely to continue to be a priority area in the coming months.
- 6.5 The Management of Offenders Bill will result in significant changes to Criminal Justice Services and a separate report will be submitted to the Committee once more information is available. However, the Bill provides for the creation of Community Justice Authorities, which requires local authorities to work with the Scottish Prison Service, the Police and other agencies to develop area plans aimed at reducing re-offending. It has recently been confirmed that Dundee, Perth & Kinross and Angus will form the basis of a Community Justice Authority and much of the focus of work for the Partnership in the coming months will be planning for the introduction of the Community Justice Authority. Shadow authorities have to be in place from April 2006.

- 6.6 In addition, the Bill strengthens arrangements for assessing and managing the risks posed by certain high-risk offenders, which will require the development of consistent and robust approaches with the Police and, where appropriate, the Scottish Prison Service. This will build on the work currently being undertaken following the recent audit of sexual offenders and in relation to the development of the ViSOR system.

## **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. The Tayside Criminal Justice Partnership Steering Group has also been consulted on the content of this report.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Committee Reports:

245-2005 - Performance Inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work Services

625-2005 – National Audit of Sex Offender Cases

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Director of Social Work

Date: 9 December 2005