

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 19 November 2001

REPORT ON: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK STRATEGIC PLAN 2002 - 2005

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 751 - 2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report informs members of the contents of the Criminal Justice Social Work Strategic Plan for the period 2002 – 2005 which provides a framework for development of a partnership between Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross Councils. A copy of the plan has been passed to each of the Group Secretaries. In addition, copies have been placed in the members' lounge.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee: -

- 2.1 Approves the contents of the plan.
- 2.2 Instructs the Director of Social Work to submit the plan to the Scottish Executive.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The revenue funding for the strategic plan will fall within the 100% funding arrangements for Criminal Justice Social Work and will be met fully by the Scottish Executive.

4.0 AGENDA 21

The strategic plan will act in support of 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

The strategic plan identifies the important contribution Criminal Justice Social Work can make in helping to ensure equitable treatment for women in the Criminal Justice system.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 Since the introduction of 100% central funding of Criminal Justice Social Work local authorities have been required to submit three-year strategic plans to the Scottish Office/Executive.
- 6.2 Following the Scottish Executive "Tough Option" paper the three Councils of Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross have formed a partnership which will deliver social work criminal justice services from April 2002.
- 6.3 There will be a single budget allocated to this partnership.
- 6.4 This plan is guided and informed by a range of departmental and corporate plans across the three councils, in particular the Corporate Strategic Plans, the Community Safety Strategic Plans and the Social Work Department Business plans.

6.5 The Scottish Executive have identified National priorities which will be carried forward within the strategic plan.

- Improving community safety and public protection
- Reducing the use of unnecessary custody by providing effective community disposals
- Promoting social inclusion of offenders through rehabilitation, so reducing the level of re-offending.

6.6 Within these national priorities there are specific priority groups on which the service will primarily focus:

- Female offenders
- Substance misuse offenders
- Young offenders
- Mentally disordered offenders
- Services for victims and witnesses

6.7 The emphasis of the strategic plan is on inter-agency and inter-authority partnerships and collaboration in working effectively with these priority groups. It acknowledges the responsibility of the Criminal Justice Social Work Service to contribute to public protection and community safety.

6.8 During the preparation of the plan consultation took place with various organisations including Tayside Police, NCH Scotland, Apex Scotland, Victim Support Scotland and the Scottish Prison Service.

Opinion and comment is currently being sought from the local judiciary.

Social Work Criminal Justice staff in all three council areas were also consulted.

7.0 CONSULTATION

Chief Executive, Director of Support Services and Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

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

9 November 2001