

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 23rd October 2006

REPORT ON: YOUTH JUSTICE ANNUAL REPORT AND YOUTH CRIME AUDIT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 595 - 2006

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The report informs members of the 2005/06 Youth Justice Annual Report/Youth Crime Audit for Dundee. A copy of the Annual Report is available for inspection in the members' lounge.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:-

2.1.1 note the content of this report

2.1.2 note and approve the Youth Justice Annual Report/Youth Crime Audit

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report

4 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report does not directly impact on the Council's Sustainability Policy

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The efforts described within the Annual Report are helping to tackle reduce youth crime and thereby promoting of the improved safety of local communities for all the citizens of Dundee and in the improved health, well being and life outcomes for children and young people affected by youth crime.

6 MAIN TEXT

6.1 Report 230-06 outlined Dundee's Youth Justice Strategy for 2006-2008. It notes the various agencies and fora that exist in Dundee to tackle youth crime, providing a framework for service provision to reinforce the role of parents, increase community supports, and challenge offending behaviour by young people. Priority areas for the strategy include,

- services for children who are at risk of being drawn into offending and anti-social behaviour
- children who have offended and who need diverted away from trouble, and,
- children involved in persistent and/or serious offending and/or anti-social behaviour where a variety of robust legal processes and powers are required

6.2 To assist elected members, other key stakeholders and members of the public about what this strategy means in practice, the Youth Justice Strategy Group - which oversees Dundee's efforts to tackle youth crime - has prepared an Annual Report. It outlines the profile of youth crime i.e. the youth crime audit, and provides a progress report about the various services and structures that are provided in Dundee to address youth crime.

6.3 The main points within the Annual Report/Audit include,

- A reduction in persistent offender numbers between 2003/4 to 2005/6 of 27%, against the Scottish Executive's target of 10%
- A reduction in the number of offence referrals between 2003/4 to 2005/6 of 10%
- The main types of crime committed by children in Dundee during 2005/06 were assault, breach of the peace, vandalism and theft
- Between 3 and 7 Dundee children were in secure accommodation at any one time through the year
- Eight children under 16yrs were considered for an ASBO during 2005/06; one application was made and granted, whilst the remainder of these children received other disposals through the Children's Hearing including Intensive Support and Monitoring (ISMS), placements in foster/residential/secure care, and/or other forms of monitoring or supervision

6.4 The report also indicates ongoing progress in working towards reductions in youth crime, with a 31% reduction in persistent offender numbers and a 13% reduction in overall referral numbers during the first quarter of 2006/07. All partners are committed to the new information-sharing arrangements and multi-agency working, which are seen as vital if recorded youth crime is to continue to fall.

7 **CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) were 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 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

Alan Baird
Director of Social Work

29th September 2006