

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 8th May 2006**  
**REPORT ON: YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGY**  
**REPORT BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (SUPPORT SERVICES)**  
**REPORT NO: 230-2006**

**1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The report informs members of an updated Youth Justice Strategy for Dundee. The report also seeks approval for various financial commitments involved in the implementation of this strategy.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:-

2.1.1 notes the content of this report

2.1.2 approves the contents of the Youth Justice Strategy, copies of which have been passed to each Group Secretary and which is also available in the members' lounge

2.1.3 approves the expenditure associated with the implementation of this strategy

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The Scottish Executive has provided £1,735,000 during financial years 2006/07 and 2007/2008 to support the implementation of the various aspects of this strategy.

**4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

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

**5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The proposals in the Youth Justice Strategy will result in the promotion 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 772-2000 outlined Dundee's first Youth Justice Strategy. It highlighted the key issues for Dundee in implementing the recommendations of the Scottish Executive's report "It's A Criminal Waste: Stop Youth Crime Now", published in June 2000.

6.2 Since 2000, the Scottish Executive has implemented various policy and legislative developments in respect of their intentions in curbing youth crime and anti-social behaviour. In particular, the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 introduced a variety of changes to the legal system. Dundee's youth justice services must ensure that as far as possible the new powers are closely integrated with the existing powers of the Children's hearing system.

- 6.3 The updated Youth Justice Strategy therefore notes the various existing and new powers open to agencies and authorities to, as far as possible, provide services that will reinforce parental authority and increase community supports, to reduce the likelihood of future problems.
- 6.4 The groups targeted by the Strategy include,
- 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 where a variety of robust legal processes and powers are required
- 6.5 To assist agencies to implement this Strategy, and to meet the reporting and other requirements of the Scottish Executive, a range of services are required. The range of services is as contained within section 2 of the Strategy. All services have previously been approved, but a recent exercise has been undertaken to ensure that all ongoing expenditure is consolidated within the terms of this Strategy.
- 6.6 In particular it is recommended that the following resources are funded through the Strategy:
- 6.6.1 Co-ordination and information services, including Youth Justice Co-ordinator, Youth Justice Administrative Assistant and Senior Clerical Assistant, Police Youth Justice officer, and the VOYCE (Victims of Youth Crime) service
- 6.6.2 Diversionary programmes and Restorative Justice services, including SACRO Youth Justice Service, the Compass scheme, the Mentoring Programme (run by Tayside Council on Alcohol), and the Sports Outreach Service (part of Kick It Kick Off)
- 6.6.3 Intensive Community and Residential Support Services, including the CHOICE Project (Dundee's main Youth Justice resource team), the Intensive Support and Monitoring Services initiative, and a new Community Resource service
- 6.7 The resources above, and the direction set out within the Strategy, are overseen by Dundee's Youth Justice Strategy Group, which is currently chaired by the Children's Services Manager (Social Work Department).

## 7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Depute Chief Executive (Finance), the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning), Directors of Housing, Social Work, Education, and Leisure and Communities, and all the agencies and organisations represented on the Youth Justice Strategy Group.

## 8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Patricia McIlquham  
Depute Chief Executive (Support Services)

28 April 2006