

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT ON: CALEDONIAN SYSTEM TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC ABUSE

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

REPORT NO: 304-2018

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Committee that Dundee has been successful in attracting Scottish Government funding to implement the Caledonian System for addressing Domestic Abuse. To outline the nature of that funding, the main elements of the Programme and describe how we propose to implement the approach in Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members:

2.1 Notes the content of this report and the ongoing developments in relation to a new response to convicted perpetrators of Domestic abuse, their victims and any children impacted.

2.2 Instructs the Executive Director of Children and Families to present such a report to Committee on an annual basis until it is assessed that the programme is well established in the city.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Community Justice Services have been awarded an initial £178,641 for the first 4 months implementation period and £487,635 for 2019-20 as part of the ring fenced funding arrangements for justice services.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 The Caledonian System introduces an accredited programme to address the behaviour of men convicted of a Domestic Abuse offence and sentenced by the Court to an Order (most commonly a Community Payback Order) with a Requirement to undertake a Domestic Abuse Programme. In addition, the Caledonian system works to an integrated model, drawing on the principles that inform the Safe and Together model, namely that steps should be taken to address the behaviour of perpetrators, whilst simultaneously offering support to victims, and providing support to children.

4.2 Since 2011, the Caledonian System has been piloted in 5 Regional hubs in Scotland - Edinburgh, Dumfries and Galloway, Falkirk, Aberdeen and North Ayrshire. In 2018 the Scottish Government put forward £2.8 million to further roll out the Caledonian System and invited bids from interested authorities. Dundee submitted a joint bid with Perth and Kinross Council and key third sector agencies in recognition of the high number of domestic abuse incidents in the city and the fact that the Service did not have an accredited domestic abuse group work programme to offer the Court.

The bid which was accepted by the Scottish Government with funding allocated for an initial 16 months (starting December 2018) but with strong indication from the Scottish Government that funding will continue thereafter. This grant will allow the Partnership to recruit an additional 4 - workers to undertake the programme work and a further 4 workers (2 for Dundee 2 for P+K) focusing on supporting the victims and children.

- 4.3 It has been agreed that Dundee will be the lead authority. This will mean that the 4 workers delivering the groupwork programme will be managed by Dundee CJS and the programme will be delivered from our purpose-adapted group work facilities in Friarfield House. In addition, a key aspect of the proposed Caledonian system in Dundee is the involvement of Third Sector partners. Action For Children (AFC) already have an existing Women's Domestic Abuse Support service consequently it has been agreed that they will host the Caledonian Women's worker and Dundee Women's Aid have agreed to host the Caledonian Children's Worker. The combination of statutory and third sector involvement will support a shared vision and accountability to achieve the three aspirations of addressing perpetrator behaviour, supporting victims and considering the impact on children. It is hoped and anticipated that Caledonian working relationships will enhance partnership working as a pre-requisite toward improving outcomes.
- 4.4 The Caledonian Programme is a court mandated disposal. It is an intensive response consisting of an initial assessment for suitability, fourteen pre-group sessions and six group work modules, each of 3 to 5 sessions (with sessions lasting 3 hours). At the end of the group there may be individual maintenance sessions until the Order is completed. It is suitable only for men assessed as presenting medium or high risk, which normally requires evidence of a pattern of similar offending. The modules include:
- Responsibility within Relationship
 - Sexual Respect
 - Men and Women
 - Children and Fathering
 - Lifelong change
 - Responsibility for and to self
- 4.5 It is anticipated that this initial funding will be extended and will allow Dundee and its partners to embed the Caledonian System within our practice. The development presents an exciting opportunity to enhance our overall approaches to domestic abuse. It will be overseen by a multi-agency steering group with regular reports provided to the Violence Against Women Partnership.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainable Development, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Integrated Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Council Management Team and the Independent Chair of the Violence Against Women Partnership have been consulted in the preparation of this report

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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Executive Director Children and Families

Jane Martin
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Integrated Children's Services and Community Justice

5 September 2018