

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 22 OCTOBER 2007

REPORT ON: TAYSIDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY AREA PLAN 2008-2011
AND ACTION PLAN 2008-2009

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 521-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides information on the Tayside Community Justice Authority Area Plan and Action Plan which are statutory requirements of the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005.

The plans were approved by Tayside Community Justice Authority (CJA) on 19 September 2007 and have been submitted to the Scottish Government. The Chief Officer will present both plans to a Scrutiny Group which is a sub group of the National Advisory Body on Offender Management in October. The Director of Social Work is a member of the Scrutiny Group however will not be involved in reviewing the Tayside Plan. The plans will remain in draft until formally approved by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2007.

Full copies of the Plans are available in the Members' Lounge.

- 1.2 Background information on the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005 and the role of CJAs was presented to the Social Work Committee in January 2006 (Report No 21-2006) and March 2006 (Report No 181-2006).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:

- 2.1 Note the content of the Tayside Community Justice Authority Area Plan and Action Plan.
- 2.2 Agree that the Director of Social Work prepares a Plan for presentation to Committee in March 2008 which will specifically meet the needs of Dundee citizens in supporting the overall aim of the Community Justice Authority in reducing reoffending.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for the Council

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 Members are reminded that there are eight CJAs across Scotland with Angus, Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Councils forming one such authority. Each CJA is made up of elected members from the constituent local authorities supported by a Chief Officer. One of the main responsibilities of the CJA involves preparing an area plan for reducing reoffending.
- 4.2 The current plans have been prepared in accordance with National Guidance and have involved extensive consultation with a range of statutory and voluntary sector agencies and have been informed by:
- feedback from associated planning groups;
 - themed seminars; and
 - ongoing meetings between the Chief Officer of the CJA and representatives of Partner agencies.

- 4.3 The report highlights key local criminal justice facts and trends. Significant information in relation to Dundee indicates:
- A steady increase in the production of Social Enquiry Reports over the last five years, with Dundee producing over 3,000 reports in 2006/07. This represents an 8% increase in demand in the last five years.
 - There has been a similar increase in the number of Community Service Orders. Since the year 2002/03 there has been an 11% increase in the number of orders made.
 - The service has also experienced a growth in demand for the provision of Restriction of Liberty Order assessments from a total of 742 requests in 2004/05 to 979 requests in 2006/07. This represents an increase of 31%.
 - As at 30 June 2006 Dundee had 380 offenders in custody, 26 of them were women and 61 were young offenders. 263 offenders were serving sentences of less than four years and were therefore defined as short term prisoners.
- 4.4 Each CJA is required to identify an area for improvement and it has been agreed that the focus within Tayside will be on substance misuse in terms of approaches to both alcohol and drugs. This will build on criminal justice social work interventions which are delivered across Tayside and include Drug Treatment and Testing Orders and the Arrest Referral Scheme and will also enable the CJA to support the work of the three Drug and Alcohol Action Teams in developing more co-ordinated services across Tayside.
- 4.5 The report also highlights areas for action in relation to a number of other offender groups, including first time offenders, violent, serious and sex offenders and persistent offenders and details specific actions. A number of these relate directly to criminal justice social work interventions. Examples include the continued implementation of Multi Agency Public Protection arrangements for high risk offenders and production of an annual report, implementation of nationally agreed programmes to offenders on statutory orders and consideration of further developing services for victims of youth crime.
- In order to ensure a consistent and co-ordinated approach Criminal Justice Services in Dundee will prepare a localised Plan which will outline the specific actions which will be taken to reduce reoffending in Dundee.
- 4.6 The areas outlined within the Plan are closely linked to the themes of the National Strategy for the Management of Offenders and include working together in new ways, developing and supporting the workforce and setting priorities.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Head of Finance and the Chief Officer of the Tayside Community Justice Authority have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None