

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET: 16 SEPTEMBER 2009

AYRSHIRE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PERFORMANCE INSPECTION BY THE SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Cabinet of the final outcome of the performance inspection which was undertaken by the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) of the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership in December 2006/January 2007.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In December 2006/January 2007, the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) undertook a Performance Inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work Services within the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Partnership, comprising of East Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council.
- 2.2 This inspection was the 13th inspection in the national programme of Criminal Justice Social Work Services.
- 2.3 In June 2007, SWIA published the final report on the Performance Inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work Services across the Ayrshire Partnership.

3. INSPECTION FINDINGS

- 3.1 The inspection findings included:
- supervision of offenders on community service was of a high standard;
 - there required to be improvement in the quality of social worker's reports;
 - good development of opportunities to link community service more closely to employability.
 - partnership wide services should be subject to performance management;
- 3.3 An action plan was established to address all identified areas. This was accepted by SWIA in December 2007. In September 2008, the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Partnership submitted its final action plan advising SWIA of the progress made in the previous year.

4. PROGRESS AND FINAL RESPONSE

- 4.1 In November 2008, the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Partnership responded to a request from SWIA for further information to evidence progress in certain areas of practice.
- 4.2 In July 2009, SWIA confirmed that they had concluded the inspection, noting that **“...good progress had been made since the original Criminal Justice inspection on all aspects of the action plan. As a result, we recognise the significant work that the local authorities and the Partnership have put into improving the services operating in the three council areas”**
- 4.3 Some examples of work which has been progressed include: -
- a review of community service across the Partnership which has resulted in the development of a “two court” model clearly addressing “cross boundary” work as well as offering a more efficient and cost effective service;
 - a review of Throughcare services which has resulted in a restructuring of the service across the Partnership;
 - a robust audit schedule in the Partnership which includes audits being undertaken by an external body as well as by line managers;;
 - the development of a Programme Delivery Team which is delivering “treatment “ programmes to both general and sex offenders across the four local authorities in South West Scotland;
 - A successful bid to the Scottish Government which has enabled the development of a women offender support project across South West Scotland.
- 4.4 SWIA identified five actions as “partially completed”, acknowledging that work is underway. These relate to:
- improving home background reports;
 - further developing SMART action plans in the supervision of offenders;
 - further developing strategic direction in respect of employability;
 - further development of performance framework;
 - developing workforce and training strategies.
- 4.5 SWIA will review progress on these matters as part of future performance inspections of local authority areas.

4.6 The Ayrshire Criminal Justice Partnership is preparing a final response to SWIA on these actions and thereafter these matters will be addressed through individual local authority performance inspections.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) note the content of this report;
- (ii) note that the findings have been reported to the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Joint Committee, which has delegated authority to manage the criminal justice social work services across Ayrshire;
- (iii) note the progress made in improving the delivery of Criminal Justice Social Work Services in East Ayrshire as noted by the Social Work Inspection Agency in July 2009.

Graham Short
Executive Director
Educational & Social Services
3 September 2009

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: Susan Taylor, Head of Service: Children, Families and Criminal Justice

BACKGROUND REPORT: SWIA Performance Inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work Services – Report on the Ayrshire Partnership Criminal Justice Social Work Services 2007