

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 23 MARCH 2006

#### UPDATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITIES

##### Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the progress being made in regard to the development of Community Justice Authorities.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Social Work Committee received a previous report on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2005 regarding the Scottish Executive report "Scotland's Criminal Justice Plan." This report outlined proposals for the future management arrangements of Criminal Justice Services. This included plans to introduce legislation which would create Community Justice Authorities (C.J.A.s).
- 2.2 The Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2005 was formally approved by the Scottish Parliament on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2005 and received Royal Assent in December 2005. One of the key elements of the Act is the establishment of Community Justice Authorities which will manage the delivery of services for offenders.

### 3. COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITIES (C.J.A.s)

- 3.1 Eight C.J.A.s have been created throughout Scotland with East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway forming **South West Scotland Criminal Justice Authorities**.
- 3.2 C.J.A.s are expected to be in place and engaged in the drawing up of Area Plans from 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2006, a transitional period will take place until April 2007 when C.J.A.s will become fully operational.
- 3.3 The C.J.A. will be made up of one elected member from each local authority represented in the South West C.J.A. Each local authority may wish to nominate a substitute member who would be entitled to vote only in the absence of the first nominee.
- 3.4 Each C.J.A. will have a Chief Officer appointed to provide strategic leadership in driving forward local criminal justice developments.
- 3.5 The functions of the C.J.A's are summarised as follows: -

- To prepare an area plan, in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and in consultation with other designated partners. The plan will be expected to set out how re-offending will be reduced within the C.J.A.
- To monitor the performance of the constituent local authorities and the SPS in complying with the area plan.
- To issue directions to constituent local authorities, where it considers that the performance has been unsatisfactory.
- To promote good practice.
- To allocate funding to the constituent local authorities.
- To report annually to the Justice Minister on performance.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

- 4.1 North Ayrshire Council has agreed to act as lead authority during the transition period of the South West Scotland C.J.A. South Ayrshire Council will provide legal services as required.
- 4.2 As the interim authority North Ayrshire Council will host the first C.J.A. meeting in April 2006.
- 4.3 East Ayrshire Council requires to elect a representative to the Community Justice Authority and this forms part of a separate report to Committee.
- 4.4 Briefing seminars are being organised in April 2006 within Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway for elected members, senior managers and key partner agencies.
- 4.5 Briefing seminars will be organised for all Criminal Justice Social Work Staff across South West Scotland (C.J.A) during April and May 2006.
- 4.6 The appointment of a Chief Officer for the C.J.A's is being co-ordinated jointly by the Scottish Executive and CoSLA and it is expected that a Chief Officer to South West Scotland C.J.A. will be placed by Autumn 2006.

#### **5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The commencement date for C.J.A.s is 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2006 and the first meeting should take place as soon as possible following this.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Funding for the development of South West Scotland C.J.A. is being provided by the Scottish Executive. This totals approximately £200,000 which includes the appointment of the Chief Officer.

## **7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATION**

7.1 This aspiration is consistent with the Improving Community Safety theme of the Community Plan.

## **8. RECOMMENDATION**

8.1 Social Work Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the preparation in relation to the development of Criminal Justice Authorities; and
- (ii) Otherwise note the contents of the report

John Mulgrew  
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1 March 2006

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. National Strategy Workshops November – December 2005.
2. Background Paper 1 – Community Justice Authorities.

For further information, please contact Sally Ann Kelly, Senior Manager (Children, Families and Criminal Justice) Telephone 01563 576907.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY**