

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 20 MAY 2004

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR BILL – ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of a letter from the Scottish Executive inviting local authorities to bid to participate in a pilot project for their monitoring of young people by electronic tagging.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A Bill is currently working its way through parliament in respect of anti social behaviour. One element of the Bill is the electronic monitoring of young people as part of an order made by a children's panel for the supervision of the child.
- 2.2 The Scottish Executive wrote to local authorities on the 30th March seeking interest in participating in a pilot project. A number of criteria were laid out, including having intensive support services, and it is clear from the letter that the Ayrshire Fast Track Children's Hearing Pilot meets all of the criteria.
- 2.3 The Head of Social Work advised the Scottish Executive that East Ayrshire would require to consult with the members of the pilot project on fast track hearings before committing to participation, but that the Council may be interested. Participation in the pilot would be subject to the availability of resources and agreements being reached around the criteria for young people being made subject to an order.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 A meeting of the partners for the fast track pilot was held on 28th April 2004 to discuss participation in the pilot. The meeting was attended by staff from the three Ayrshire councils, the Reporter to the Children's Panel, the Police and representation from panel members.
- 3.2 There was considerable discussion on the proposed tagging of young people. It was recognised that this was something which caused significant concern in principle and that the current lack of guidance on the implementation of orders and the legal requirements on their implementation made it difficult to reach a view on the viability of participating in a pilot.
- 3.3 The participants also acknowledged that the Executive had already invested significantly in youth justice services through both the fast track pilot and the pilot on intensive support services and therefore the partners may be in a

better position to participate in a pilot and influence the development of electronic monitoring of young people.

- 3.4 Consequently, the partners agreed that there should be a positive response to the Executive in terms of participating in the pilot subject to agreement being reached on the level of resources being agreed for implementation and agreement also being reached on implementation issues such as: criteria for making an order, level of supervision and rules around breach of orders. Given that partners have developed resources on a partnership basis all of the partners would need to give final agreement to participation.

4. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Nil

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that Social Work Committee:-
- (i) note the contents of this report
 - (ii) agree that the Executive Director of Education and Social Services express an interest in participating in the pilot for electronic monitoring subject to sufficient resources being made available and agreement on the criteria for young people being made subject to an order; and
 - (iii) require the Executive Director to produce a further report to Committee once discussion with the Executive and partner organisations have been concluded with a recommendation as to whether or not East Ayrshire participates in the pilot programme.

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Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
28 April 2004

Further information available from Bill Eadie, Senior operations Manager, Civic Centre, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock, Tel 01563 576926

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