

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 8 SEPTEMBER 2005

SEX OFFENDERS AUDIT - EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the steps taken following the publication of the 'Report into the Management of Sex Offenders' in North Lanarkshire by Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In April 2005, the Social Work Inspection Agency published the above report following the abduction of a child.

- 2.2 On the 18th April 2005, the Minister for Justice wrote to Chief Executives, amongst others, asking that Local Authorities the Police and Scottish Prison Service jointly audit all medium to high risk sex offenders to ensure that;

- (a) a competent risk assessment had been undertaken in each case
- (b) arrangements for supervision were in place and were being reviewed on a regular basis.

The audit has to be completed and reported back to the Chief Inspector at Social Work Inspection Agency by 30th September 2005.

3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 55 registered sex offenders across East Ayrshire are being audited. A further 12 individuals are being audited separately by Scottish Prison Service.

- 3.2 17 of these offenders are subject to compulsory supervision by social work.

- 3.3 These 17 cases were reviewed by Police and social work staff.

- 3.4 Of the 17 statutory social work cases audited, all of the case files met at least a "satisfactory" level i.e., all of them had evidence of a risk assessment having been undertaken; all had evidence of supervision and review as per Criminal Justice National Standards.

- 3.5 In terms of areas for improvement, information in the files could be difficult to find and although risk assessments had been undertaken, at this stage they had not been carried out jointly with the Police. These are areas which have already been identified for future improvement.

- 3.6 A full analysis of the information gathered through the audit is being undertaken and will be reported to Committee in greater detail at a later stage.
- 3.7 Scottish Prison Service are carrying out their audit of prisoners who fall within the category and will advise local authorities of the outcome of this by early September 2005.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Strathclyde Police have appointed a “task force” who will review every registered sex offender case using a separate audit tool which has been agreed by the Police across Scotland.
- 4.2 During the final week in September 2005 it is intended that the three Ayrshire authority representatives will meet locally with Strathclyde Police and share each other’s audit information to agree the format of the final report to the Chief Inspector at SWIA.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Nil.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to:
- (i) note the actions being taken to complete the joint audit of sex offender cases and the report from Chief Executive to the SWIA by 30th September 2005; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
29 August 2005
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Social Work Inspection Agency – An Investigation into the Management of the Post-Release Supervision of a Sex Offender in North Lanarkshire – April 2005.
2. Letter from Cathy Jamieson, Minister for Justice – 18 April 2005

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