

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 7 SEPTEMBER 2006

SOCIAL WORK INSPECTION AGENCY INSPECTION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the work being undertaken by Criminal Justice Social Work Services within East Ayrshire in relation to the continuous improvement agenda and in preparation for the inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work Services in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In January 2006 Committee was advised that the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) planned to inspect the Criminal Justice Social Work Services of the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Partnership.
- 2.2 The Criminal Justice Inspection across Ayrshire is expected to commence in October 2006. Consequently, the Social Work Inspection agency have advised that they will carry out the case file reading between 18 December 2006 – 20 December 2006 with the fieldwork phase taking place in the last two weeks in January 2007.

3. SERVICE PLANNING

- 3.1 The Ayrshire Criminal Justice Partnership consists of Criminal Justice Social Work Services from East, North and South Ayrshire. The work of the Partnership is overseen by the Partnership Manager who has developed a Criminal Justice Social Work Priority Service Development Plan. This identifies areas of service development across Ayrshire and clearly lays out objectives and timescales.
- 3.2 Within East Ayrshire the Service Manager Criminal Justice has developed a Service Improvement Plan for Criminal Justice in East Ayrshire which is linked to the overall plan for the Partnership. It identifies areas of improvement within Criminal Justice under the headings of Protection, Performance and Partnership.
- 3.3 Stemming from the Service Improvement Plan a Practice Improvement Plan has been produced along with Criminal Justice Team Managers in East Ayrshire. This plan identifies key priorities and tasks for strengthening the quality of services delivered by Criminal Justice as follows: -
 - Criminal Justice Managers have undertaken a review of previous Criminal Justice Social Work Inspection Reports and subsequently summarised the implications of these for East Ayrshire Criminal Justice Services. Clear themes have emerged

from these reviews which have provided the opportunity for East Ayrshire Criminal Justice Services to strengthen practice locally. These themes include inspections paying particular attention to the following aspects of service management and delivery,

- The analysis of the quality of Social enquiry and Home Background Reports
 - The inspection of arrangements for offenders supervision
 - Specific inspection of the quality of supervision of High Risk Offenders
 - The organisation of service arrangements in relation to Community Service, and,
 - The organisation and management of the Criminal Justice service within the Local Authority.
- In order to continue to strengthen East Ayrshire Services an audit of case files and reports undertaken by Criminal Justice Social Work Managers last year is being repeated. Any actions resulting from this exercise will be identified and progressed.
 - Training needs identified for staff as an outcome of the sex offenders audit and the audit of case files have been progressed. A range of training programmes have been provided and more are planned for staff on risk management, effective practice and case management.

4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications arising from the Inspection of Criminal Justice Services.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications for East Ayrshire Council as a result of the Criminal Justice Inspection. There are however indirect resource implications through the significant demand of officer time in the inspection process.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The services delivered by Criminal Justice Service are consistent with the principles and themes of the Community Plan and particularly relate to the Improving Community Safety Agenda.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Social Work Committee is asked to:

- (i) request that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services produce a report to Committee on the outcome of the Inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work Services; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director of Educational and Social Services
FMACK/LB
2 August 2006
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (1) Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) Reports.
 - Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Partnership Report March 2006.
 - Forth Valley Criminal Justice Partnership Report June 2006.

These reports are available in the Members Information Point.

For further information, please contact Sally Ann Kelly, Senior Manager, Children and Families and Criminal Justice, Council Offices, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock KA1 1BY. Tel. 01563 576907.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: - JACKIE DONNELLY