

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **BEST VALUE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: 11 OCTOBER 2000**

#### **BEST VALUE REVIEW – SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

##### **Report by Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To ask the Sub-Committee to note the completion of the Best Value Review of Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System and to note the Service Improvement Action Plan resulting from the review as endorsed by the Service Review Member/Officer Working Group.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Best Value Sub-Committee of 18 March 1999 agreed, among other things, to the establishment of Service Review Member/Officer Working Groups which would assess the outcomes from the reviews of all of the council's service units.
- 2.2 In terms of the council's agreed process for service review, it is a requirement that this Sub-Committee receive and consider reports on the outcome of service reviews undertaken within the council and determine, as appropriate, any required action.

### **3.0 SERVICE REVIEW CONCLUSIONS**

- 3.1 The Service Review Member/Officer Working Group for Criminal Justice Services met on 20 June 2000. The Member/Officer Working Group considered reports which provided the background and context to the review, the review process and the Service Improvement Action Plan resulting from the review. Additionally, the Working Group received a report from the Head of Corporate Development and Communication which provided an independent appraisal of the review.
- 3.2 Criminal Justice Services was also subject to a Performance Management and Planning Audit which was conducted by Audit Scotland. This provided further external scrutiny of the services and reassurance for the Working Group that the actions identified through the service review are comprehensive.
- 3.3 The Service Review Action Plan is contained in the appendix to this report for information. Among other things the Member/Officer Working Group agreed to endorse these actions as a basis for Criminal Justice Services to move forward in delivering service improvements. Progress against these actions will be monitored by the Director of Educational and Social Services and will be subject to a follow-up audit by Audit Scotland in the current financial year. The Working Group also agreed to recommend these actions to this Sub-Committee.

#### **4.0 LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Nil.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Service Review was conducted in terms of the council's new Best Value Implementation Plan which recognises fundamental service reviews as a key feature of the council's approach to securing continuous improvement in service delivery.

#### **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 The Sub-Committee is asked to:-

- (i) note the completion of the Service Review of Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System;
- (ii) note the actions contained within the Service Improvement Action Plan as endorsed by the Member/Officer Working Group;
- (iii) note that the review and its outcomes were reported by the Director of Educational and Social Services to the Social Work Committee at its meeting on 14 September 2000, and
- (iv) otherwise, note the content of this report.

Fiona Lees  
**Director of Corporate Resources/Depute Chief Executive**  
3 October 2000

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Minute of the Member/Officer Service Review meeting of 20 June 2000.

**AGENDA**