

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 29TH MARCH 2001

H.M. PRISON, KILMARNOCK: ADDITIONAL POST OF SOCIAL WORKER

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Elected Members approval for the creation of a Social Worker post additional to the current establishment at the Social Work Unit based in H.M. Prison, Kilmarnock, and to seek agreement to refer the matter of recruitment to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Children, Families and Criminal Justice Sub-Committee of the Social Work Committee of 24 February 1999, Item 2 Page 4380, consideration was given to the range and nature of prison-based social work services, and approval provided to begin the process of recruiting the current establishment of one Senior Social Worker and two Social Workers.
- 2.2 The setting of this establishment was determined by the funding made available by Premier Prison Services Ltd. East Ayrshire Social Work Management recognised that this level of staffing would undermine their ability to provide the full range of social work services in terms of the National Standards for Throughcare Services. In limiting the level of service provided to Premier Prison Services Ltd. as a consequence of them setting the staffing at the current level priority was given to providing a service to certain categories of prisoners. These included those who were to be released on statutory licence, sex offenders and Schedule I offenders [offences against the person].
- 2.3 The Chief Inspector of Prisons Report on H.M. Prison, Kilmarnock, published in August 2000, while positive on many aspects of the management and operation of the prison, indicated a tacit acceptance of East Ayrshire's position that the staffing level limited the ability of the Social Work Unit to provide a more comprehensive range of services. The Inspector's report made one recommendation specifically relating to social work: "There should be an entire review of the Social Work Unit including staffing resources in order to ensure effective social work input".
- 2.4 In response, Premier Prison Services Ltd. agreed to participate in a review of the Social Work Unit and this work concluded in December 2000. The review report, amongst other things, pointed to the need for additional social workers. Following discussion with East Ayrshire on the conclusions of the review report, and further consideration within their management structure, Premier Prison Services Ltd. agreed to fund an additional social worker post.

3. FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The full costs associated with this additional Qualified Social Worker post are £29,117 per annum and will be met by Premier Prison Services Ltd. The authority's arrangement with Premier Prison Services Ltd is for a considerable period and the post should be filled on a substantive basis.
- 3.2 The additional social worker post is not included in the current social work staffing establishment and requires to be referred to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee for their endorsement.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 With the funding approved from Premier Prison Services Ltd the appointment of an additional Social Worker to the prison-based social work team will extend and enhance the range and quality of service the Social Work Unit is able to provide. The new establishment will be one Senior Social Worker and three Social Workers.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that Elected Members:
- i) approve the creation of an additional Social Worker post to be located within the Social Work Unit at H.M. Prison, Kilmarnock;
 - ii) agree to refer the matter to the Personnel and Property Sub-Committee for consideration; and
 - iii) otherwise note the content of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
16 February 2001
DF/MD

List of Background Papers

- 1) Letter from Ron Tasker, Director (Custodial Services) Premier Prison Services Ltd. to Donal Flannery dated 13 February 2001.

For further information please contact Donal Flannery, Service Unit Manager (Criminal Justice), Tel: 01563 576907

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : DONAL FLANNERY

AGENDA