

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 31 January 2002**

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK STATISTICS 2000-01**

#### **Report by Director of Educational and Social Services.**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Elected Members on the data contained within the Statistical Bulletin on Criminal Justice Social Work Services 2000-01.
- 1.2 To compare East Ayrshire's performance within a Scottish wide context, and against that of its neighbouring authorities who make up the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive recently (November 2001) published the second Statistical Bulletin on Criminal Justice Social Work Services. The bulletin presents information on social enquiry reports, probation orders, community service orders and supervised attendance orders in Scotland. The figures presented in the bulletin are drawn from aggregate returns provided to the Scottish Executive by local authorities.

#### **3. KEY POINTS**

- 3.1 Amongst the key points made in a Scottish wide context are the following:
  - while the total number of social enquiry reports submitted by local authorities to courts remained largely unchanged compared to the previous year, East Ayrshire experienced a 7% increase during the same period.
  - the number of new probation orders made by courts in Scotland during 2000-01 rose by 3%, in East Ayrshire the increase was 9%.
  - the number of new community service orders made by courts in Scotland decreased slightly during 2000-01, however East Ayrshire recorded a 13% increase during the some period.
  - East Ayrshire received 253 new supervised attendance orders during 2000-01, 10% of the total made in Scotland in the same period.
- 3.2 In each of these four core areas of service East Ayrshire's Criminal Justice Social Work Unit has been required to manage an increasing demand, as against a

falling or largely unchanged demand for service experienced elsewhere in Scotland.

#### **4. COMPARISON WITH PARTNERSHIP AUTHORITIES**

4.1 With regard to the number of reports submitted and orders made within the Ayrshire Partnership area the following is noted:

- Social Enquiry Reports (SER's) – East Ayrshire accounted for 36% of the total number of SER's submitted to courts by the three Ayrshire authorities. This was slightly higher than the percentage of South Ayrshire Council, and 7% greater than North Ayrshire Council.
- Probation – East Ayrshire received 40% of the total number of new probation cases made in the Partnership area, significantly greater than either of its Partners.
- Community Service – East Ayrshire received 38% of the total number of new community service orders made in the Partnership area, slightly ahead of North Ayrshire Council but significantly ahead of South Ayrshire Council.
- Supervised Attendance – East Ayrshire manages over half (53%) of all new supervised attendance cases received in the Partnership area.

4.2 Set against the population of each of the three Partnership authorities, East Ayrshire experiences a higher demand for each of these core criminal justice social work services reflecting a greater use by courts of community-based sentences.

#### **5. AGGREGATE RETURN**

5.1 All local authorities are required to submit aggregate returns for criminal justice social work services. The returns provide information on the level of demand for certain core services broken down by age and gender, experienced by individual authorities.

5.2 The information contained in the aggregate return points to an increasing involvement of women with criminal justice social work services.

5.3 The aggregate return also indicates that the greater proportion of the population with whom criminal justice social work services is involved are aged between 18 and 25 years.

5.4 The greater proportion of East Ayrshire residents who received a probation order (89%) or community service order (75%) are not in full-time employment or training. Combined this is 7% higher than the Scottish average for 2000-01.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The Statistical Bulletin and the aggregate return referred to in this report indicate a greater demand for certain core criminal justice social work services than is experienced by Partnership authorities. They also provide some evidence of increasing courts confidence in making use of community-based disposals in East Ayrshire.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 As core criminal justice social work services are funded 100% by the Scottish Executive, there are no financial implications for the Council arising from the provision of such services.

## **8. RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 It is recommended that Social Work Committee:
- 1) note the content of this report.

John Mulgrew  
Director of Educational and Social Services  
15 January 2002.

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

#### **1) Briefing Note: Criminal Justice Social Work Statistics 2000-01**

A copy of the Statistical Bulletin (Criminal Justice/2001/6) and the Criminal Justice Service Aggregate Return: 2000-01 will be available in the Members Information Point

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

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : DONAL FLANNERY**

**AGENDA**