

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 23 MAY 2002

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SERVICES : GRANT ALLOCATION FOR 2002 – 2003

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Elected Members of the 100% grant allocation to East Ayrshire Council for the delivery of approved core and non-core criminal justice social work services, and of the grant made available to the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Partnership for delivering these same services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive, in determining the amount of the grant available, took account of the following:-
- Core service allocation calculated using a formula based on information on needs and workload;
 - Ayrshire Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership : Strategic Plan 2002 – 2005;
 - Discussion on development links contained in the Strategic Plan involving the Scottish Executive and the three Ayrshire authorities.
- 2.2 As from 1 April 2002 a single grant award for criminal justice social work services is made to the Partnership. North Ayrshire Council is the recipient authority for the Partnership (Social Work Committee – 31 January 2002, Page 2337, Item 6). Arrangements are being put in place to disburse the grant in monthly payments based on each individual authority's identified share of the Partnership award.
- 2.3 The Scottish Executive has indicated its intention to operate solely on the Partnership basis without any identification of the portion to be awarded to individual authorities from April 2003. This will require a different set of arrangements to ensure the appropriate disbursement of the grant to individual authorities. This will be subject to a further report to Committee at a later stage.
- 2.4 An inflation uplift of 3% has been applied to the grant award for 2002 – 2003. While the Scottish Executive indicate that the current allocation will be rolled forward for the following two years, there is no guarantee a similar level of uplift will be applied.

3. GRANT ALLOCATION : EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

3.1 The grant award is divided into core i.e., mainstream services, and non-core i.e., support services. Core services include probation, social enquiry reports, community service, supervised attendance and throughcare. Non-core services are supported accommodation and part funding of the Young People who Offend initiative. Wherever possible it is the intention of the Scottish Executive to transfer funding of non-core services to core services. From this year court-based social work services have transferred from non-core to core services with the level of grant award determined by the formula method.

3.2 The level of grant award for East Ayrshire Council in 2002 – 2003 is as follows:

- **Core Services - £962,128 (2001 / 2002 £845,340)**

This is an increase in core service funding of 14% compared to 2001 – 2002. However, the transfer of court-based services from non-core funding reduces this figure to 6% (£911,244).

- **Non-Core Funding - £61,093 (2001 / 2002 £43,708)**

This is an increase of 40% and is almost wholly accounted for by a substantial increase in funding for supported accommodation.

3.3 The full award to East Ayrshire amounts to £1,023,221, a 7% increase on the previous year's allocation which was £954,952.

4. GRANT ALLOCATION : AYRSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

4.1 The total grant awarded to the Ayrshire Partnership amounts to £2,977,195.

4.2 Contained within the overall total are a number of new Partnership service developments, and the renewal of existing Partnership services. These are:

- **Ayrshire Sex Offender Initiative - £86,341**

This new service will be managed on behalf of the Partnership by East Ayrshire;

- **Mentally Disordered Offenders Project - £30,000**

This new service will be managed on behalf of the Partnership by South Ayrshire Council.

- **Specialist Addiction Service - £54,372**

This existing service will continue to be managed on behalf of the Partnership by North Ayrshire Council.

- **Employment Project - £41,163**

This existing service will continue to be managed on behalf of the Partnership by North Ayrshire Council.

5. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Criminal Justice social work services are funded through the 100% recharge arrangements. Consequently there are no financial implications. The level of grant award is considered sufficient to meet the needs of providing this service.

5.2 There are no immediate personnel implications for the Council. The development of the Sex Offender Initiative will require additional staff to be recruited. This will be subject to a further report to Committee at a later date.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The level of grant award to East Ayrshire Council shows a 7% rise compared to that awarded in 2001 – 2002, and is considered to be sufficient to meet the costs of delivering this service. The Ayrshire Partnership has been successful also in attracting new service developments, and the continuation of the existing Partnership support programmes.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is recommended that Elected Members:

- (i) note the content of this report,
- (ii) request the Director of Educational and Social Services to submit a report at a later date on service arrangements and personnel implications in relation to the Ayrshire Sex Offender Initiative.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
26 April 2002
Enc (1)
DF/AGW

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Scottish Executive letter dated 19 March 2002, indicating final allocation of grant for 2002 – 2003.

Any person who wishes any further information on this report should contact Donal Flannery, Service Unit Manager (Criminal Justice), Council Offices, John Dickie Street, Kilmarnock. Tel :01563 554887.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : DONAL FLANNERY

AGENDA