

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2000**

#### **FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGING AND DELIVERING SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

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

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the outcome of discussions involving East, North and South Ayrshire Councils in relation to the future management and delivery arrangements for criminal justice social work services, to seek endorsement of the arrangement being proposed, and have Committee approve the forwarding of an outline proposal to the Scottish Executive.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In response to the then Scottish Office consultation document "Community Sentencing: The Tough Option" (Social Work Committee 1<sup>st</sup> December 1998, Item 14 Page 4017), and subsequent reports on progress (Social Work Committee 30<sup>th</sup> November 1999, Item 4, Page 535, and Social Work Committee 14<sup>th</sup> June 2000, Item 7, Page 1082) a grouping of the three Ayrshire criminal justice social work services to be called the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership was agreed, and accepted by the Scottish Executive.
- 2.2 To progress development of an outline proposal the Ayrshire grouping has met on two occasions since the June 2000 Committee. The purpose of these meetings was to allow consideration of a number of models for managing and delivering services, and to identify one which best met the requirements of the three authorities, and those of the Scottish Executive.

### **3.0 PROPOSED MODEL**

- 3.1 At a meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2000 the three Chairs of Social Work, on advice and following detailed discussions with officers, reached agreement on one model which they considered best met the requirements of the three authorities and the Scottish Executive, and was one in which the range and quality of service provided across the three authorities would be enhanced.
- 3.2 The model envisages accountability to Councils through a Management Group comprising the Chairs and Vice-Chair of Social Work from the three authorities. This group would agree the joint strategic plan for the partnership, oversee its implementation, and scrutinise management of the budget. The views of the Council's Legal Service will be sought in order to ensure proper arrangements are in place.

- 3.3 While the existing Criminal Justice Managers retain their operational roles, the model proposes one officer takes on additional responsibilities in relation to the Ayrshire wide dimension. More detailed information on the organisational structure will be contained in the joint strategic plan.
- 3.4 The model proposed will ensure a greater consistency in service provision, and coherence in service development, across Ayrshire. However it also enhances the retention of local responsibility for core service delivery, and the capacity to maintain those links with other services provided by the Council. In addition, the model allows the possibility to breakdown geographical boundaries, both in terms of staff delivering and clients receiving services, where this is required. Duplication of management tasks would be minimised, as all three managers would have clearly defined remits and each would undertake task for the Partnership.
- 3.5 The Scottish Executive requires outline proposals of the management arrangements to be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2000, and the submission of a joint strategic plan by March 2001. Approval to submit a joint strategic plan was given at the Social Work Committee of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2000, (Item 7, Page 1082).

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Funding for criminal justice social work services will continue to be met through the 100% arrangement by the Scottish Executive. The Scottish Executive have indicated to COSLA that any transitional costs incurred by local authorities as a result of this reorganisation of services may be met by means of a one-off payment.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Having considered a number of options for the management and delivery of criminal justice social work services within the accepted grouping, agreement was reached on one model that best met the requirements of the three authorities, and those of the Scottish Executive. The model being proposed involves a single management structure with political accountability vested in a Management Committee comprising the respective Chairs and Vice-Chairs of social work, supported by relevant officers.

#### **6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- (i) endorses the proposed model as a basis for managing and delivering criminal justice social work services across Ayrshire;
  - (ii) approves the forwarding of an outline proposal based on this to the Scottish Executive;
  - (iii) otherwise notes the content of this report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Director of Educational & Social Services**

DFMD  
23<sup>rd</sup> August 2000  
ENCS (1)

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Community Sentencing: The Tough Option available from the office of the Head of Social Work.

For further information please contact Bernadette Docherty, Head of Social Work, tel: 01563 576920 or Donal Flannery, Service Unit Manager (Criminal Justice), tel: 01563 576907.

**AGENDA**