

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 29th March, 2001

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

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Elected Members of the progress made in developing formal partnership arrangements between the three Ayrshire Councils for the management and delivery of criminal justice social work services.
- 1.2 To seek endorsement of the arrangements being proposed including the appointment of a Criminal Justice Manager for the Partnership and the timescale set out for the implementation of the partnership arrangements.
- 1.3 To seek authority to submit the revised proposal to the Scottish Executive.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On previous occasions, Social Work Committee has considered reports on the development of this initiative submitted by the Director of Social Work and the Director of Educational and Social Services. Social Work Committee 1st December 1998, 30th November 1999, 14th June 2000 and 14th September 2000 refer.
- 2.2 In October 2000 the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership submitted their outline proposal for the management and delivery of criminal justice social work services to the Scottish Executive. In response the Scottish Executive raised a number of issues. The Partnership was asked to reconsider its proposal in light of the points raised and re-submit, with any modifications, by the end of March 2001.

3. REVISED PROPOSAL

- 3.1 At a meeting on 6th February 2001, the three chairs of Social Work, on advice and following detailed discussion with officers, reconsidered the original outline proposal and, having clarified the issues raised by the Scottish Executive, reached agreement on how to strengthen and take forward the proposed partnership arrangements.
- 3.2 The revised proposal clarifies the issues raised by the Scottish Executive as follows:

- (i) the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Management Group will act in a similar manner to a sub-committee of the three Councils Social Work Committee, or equivalent, formalised in a Minute of Agreement. Membership will comprise two elected members from each authority supported by senior officers;
- (ii) management of the single 100% budget for criminal justice social work to be introduced on 1st April 2002 will rest with the Criminal Justice Partnership Manager who will report to the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Management Group on this issue;
- (iii) any additional costs in relation to the integration of the three criminal justice services will be shown clearly within the Joint Strategic Plan, and submitted to Scottish Executive for their consideration and funding.

4. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 In order to meet the agreed timetable, the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Management Group, if the revised proposal is accepted by the Minister require to appoint a Partnership Manager with planning and operational responsibilities for all aspects of the service. This should be completed by the end of April 2001 to allow sufficient time to prepare the Joint Strategic Plan. This appointment will be made from within the existing complement of the three Criminal Justice Managers currently employed by the Ayrshire authorities. The successful candidate will remain employed within his current authority. The unsuccessful candidates will become Assistant Criminal Justice Managers and remain employed within their current authority.
- 4.2 The interview panel for the Partnership Manager will consist of the three Chairs of Social Work who will be advised by a personnel representative from one of the authorities, with further advice being provided by a Chief Social Work Officer.
- 4.3 The Ayrshire Criminal Justice Management Group will take full responsibility for the management and delivery of services from September 2001. The Group will agree the first joint budget for the grouping and have respective Committees endorse this decision by February 2002. The first joint budget will be effective as of 1st April, 2002.
- 4.4 The Joint Strategic Plan will be submitted to the Scottish Executive in September 2001. A comprehensive review of service delivery, including structural arrangements, will follow and be completed for consideration by the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Management Group by April 2002.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Funding for criminal justice social work services will continue to be met through the 100% arrangement by the Scottish Executive. Any additional costs incurred as a result of the integration of criminal justice social work services across Ayrshire will be identified in the Joint Strategic Plan and submitted to the Scottish Executive for their consideration and funding.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 It is considered that the revised proposal for the management and delivery of criminal justice social work services across Ayrshire agreed between the three Councils meets all the principles set by the Scottish Executive for the establishment of the formal partnership. It clarifies for the Scottish Executive their issues in relation to the outline proposal submitted in October 2000.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is recommended that Elected Members:
- i) endorse the revised proposal as a basis for managing and delivering criminal justice social work service across Ayrshire;
 - ii) endorse the arrangements for the appointment of a Partnership Manager;
 - iii) endorse the timescale set out for the implementation of the partnership arrangement;
 - iv) approve submission of the revised proposal to the Scottish Executive;
 - v) recommend to Council approval of the draft Minute of Agreement between the three Ayrshire Councils in respect of management arrangements as described in Section 3 of the report and that the Solicitor to the Council facilitate the formal signing of the Minute of Agreement between the three Ayrshire Councils; and
 - v) otherwise note the content of this report.

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

List of Background Papers

- 1) Letter from Deputy First Minister and Minister for Justice dated 4th May, 2000.
- 2) Letter from Elizabeth Carmichael (Scottish Executive – Justice Department) dated 6th November, 2000.
- 3) Letter from Deputy First Minister and Minister for Justice dated 16th January, 2001.

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

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: DONAL FLANNERY

AGENDA