

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 29 JANUARY 2004

COMMUNITY SERVICE BY OFFENDERS

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Elected Members of additional resources being made available to increase the staffing level for the Community Service by Offenders Scheme, and to seek approval to refer on to the Corporate Governance Committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Community Service is a sentence of a court imposed as a direct alternative to imprisonment. A community service order requires an individual to perform unpaid work as a means of reparation to his/her community. The minimum number of hours a court may impose is 80 rising to a maximum of 240 hours (300 in solemn proceedings)..
- 2.2 Nationally there has been an increase of 13% in the number of community service orders imposed during 2002/2003 compared to the previous year. In East Ayrshire the increase was 14%.
- 2.3 In response to this increase in new community service orders the Scottish Executive has made available additional core funding. £91 715 was made available to the Ayrshire Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership of which East Ayrshire will receive £32 812.

3.0 CURRENT ESTABLISHMENT

- 3.1 The current establishment of the Community Service section of the Criminal Justice Service Unit is 2 x Community Service officers. The posts, which require no formal qualifications, are graded at AP4/5. Line managed by a Community Service Organiser the section was at 31st December, 2003, managing 171 individuals subject to community service orders.
- 3.2 To better manage the increase in demand faced by the community service section, it is proposed to increase the current establishment by 1 additional officer. The post is permanent.

4.0 FINANCE/PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Criminal Justice Social Work services are funded through a 100% grant award made available by the Scottish Executive to local authorities.

- 4.2 In response to a significant increase in the number of orders additional resources have been made available through the 100% grant mechanism. For East Ayrshire this amounts to £32 812 annually.
- 4.3 Given the increase in grant made available by the Scottish Executive there is no cost to the Council in approving the addition to the current establishment of one further officer.
- 4.4 A referral requires to be made to the Corporate Governance Committee for final approval.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 In response to an increase in the number of new community service orders being imposed by courts, additional funds are being made available by the Scottish Executive to allow the Council to recruit a third community service officer.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that elected Members:
- (i) approve the proposed increase in community service officers from 2 to 3
 - (ii) refer the issue for further consideration by the Corporate Governance Committee.
 - (iii) otherwise note the content of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
5th January, 2004.
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DF/SM

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact Donal Flannery, Service Unit Manager, Criminal Justice Services, Council Offices, Civic Centre, Kilmarnock. (Tel. 01563 576907).

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: BILL EADIE, PRINCIPAL OFFICER CHILDREN & FAMILIES AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES