

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK & HEALTH COMMITTEE – 24 FEBRUARY 2015**

**CHANGES WITHIN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES IN ANGUS**

**REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PEOPLE**

**ABSTRACT**

In April 2017 the Tayside Community Justice Authority (TCJA) will be dissolved and responsibility for the delivery of social work Criminal Justice Services (CJS) will revert fully to Angus Council. (The Scottish Government intends that responsibility for criminal justice partnership strategic planning matters will be assumed by the Community Planning Partnerships, with service delivery being the responsibility of Councils.) Officers are involved in transition planning for this event. This report is intended to provide members with an overview of current Criminal Justice Service (CJS) business activity as part of a process of orientation and preparation for the change. This report will also inform Committee of a number of developments within CJS in response to national and local drivers for change. The report is necessarily broad in its scope, with the intention to continue this orientation process with specific issue reports being provided at later dates.

**1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) takes particular cognizance of the scheduled resumption of planning responsibilities for CJS by the Angus Council Community Planning Partnership.
- (ii) approves the continuation of the Glen Isla project for a further two years, dependent on continuing funding from partner agencies.
- (iii) gains assurance regarding the management of high risk offenders in Angus from the contents of the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Annual Report and the on-going developments in relation to high risk offenders.
- (iv) notes the content of the Tayside Community Justice Authority Annual Report.
- (v) notes the initial findings of the review of Angus Criminal Justice Services.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- 4 Adults maximise their potential through learning opportunities
- 7 Our communities are safe, secure and vibrant:
- 8 We have improved the health and well being of our people and inequalities are reduced
- 9 Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services

### **3. BACKGROUND**

Section 3(5)(g) of the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005, requires Community Justice Authorities to submit an Annual Report to the Scottish Ministers, as soon as is practicable after the end of each financial year. The Tayside Community Justice Authority Annual Report for 2013/14 was approved by the CJA on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014. A copy of the Annual Report is appended.

The Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005 introduced a statutory duty on Responsible Authorities - Local Authorities, Scottish Prison Service (SPS), Police and Health to establish joint arrangements for the assessment and management of the risk posed by certain offenders who pose a risk of harm to the public. The Responsible Authorities are required to keep the arrangements under review and to publish an annual report. The Tayside MAPPA annual report was approved by the CJA on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

The Scottish Government have conducted two consultations regarding the future model of Community Justice in Scotland. Following these the Scottish Government have concluded that responsibilities for planning and operational delivery will revert to local authorities in April 2017. The Scottish Government has advised that it wishes these responsibilities to be exercised by the existing Community Planning Partnerships; consequently, no additional funding will be available to support this transition.

The Funding Project under Phase 2 of the Scottish Government's Reducing Reoffending Programme (RRP2) is examining existing community justice funding arrangements and how best it might support the work on the redesign of community justice. The project is also working alongside the performance management project to develop a funding model that will support the delivery of outcomes and align with the work to develop a new model for community justice in Scotland. The Scottish Government is also conducting a unit costing exercise in support of the above and has recently advised that the funding for Angus in 2014/15 will be reduced by £12,600. In addition to this, the funding allocated to the Glen Isla Women Offenders Project will cease from 31 March 2015. It is notable that funding levels since the establishment of the CJA have remained largely static.

Arbroath Sheriff Court closed in May 2014 and all business has now transferred to Forfar Sheriff Court. This has necessitated moving a full Criminal Justice Team to Forfar to serve the Court.

### **4. MAPPA**

At the request of the Scottish Government, the Care Inspectorate and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland will undertake a "proportionate, risk-based and intelligence led review of the multi agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) in Scotland". The purpose of the joint thematic review will be to assess the state, efficiency and effectiveness of MAPPA in Scotland. The fieldwork stage of the review is scheduled for April – June 2015. A joint national report will be published around autumn 2015. It is envisaged that the report will support responsible authorities in the efficient and effective delivery of MAPPA across Scotland. A copy of the report will also be provided to the Cabinet Secretary for justice and will be made publicly available on the Care Inspectorate and HMICS websites.

The Tayside MAPPA annual report 2013/14 was approved by the CJA on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

Statistics of note were:

- As of 31 March 2014 there were 333 registered sex offenders within Tayside, an increase of 4 offenders since March 2013
- Of those 333, 100 are managed within Angus
- 326 (97.8%) of offenders across Tayside complied with their registration requirements which is slightly higher than the 96.6% compliance rate of the previous report. Unfortunately, this information is not available specifically for Angus.
- 120 are managed jointly by Police and Social Work (of which 34 are resident in Angus)

A new national model for the treatment of the perpetrators of sexual offences was rolled out in Tayside in April 2014. This program is known as 'Moving Forward, Making Changes' and, as with the previous program, is largely led by the Tay Project, the specialist assessment and group work team based in Dundee and serving Tayside. Case management responsibilities remain with the Angus Public Protection Team. . This new mandatory program has significant implications in terms of increased workload for case managers but this has not been reflected in budget allocation.

The Scottish Government has also confirmed that it intends to extend MAPPA arrangements to violent offenders in April 2015. While the numbers concerned are low the impact on workload for case managers is high and statutory reporting requirements via the Home Office database ViSOR (Violent and Sexual Offenders Register), while entirely appropriate, will be onerous. This is not reflected in funding arrangements; consequently, staffing arrangements for the Public Protection Team, which holds responsibility for managing sexual and violent offenders, will remain the same.

### **Tayside Community Justice Authority**

The TCJA annual report was approved by the CJA on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and will be published on the TCJA website shortly at <http://www.taysidecja.com/>.

The report notes an upward trend in the number of Community Payback Orders issued in Angus and a significant improvement in the commencement of Unpaid Work within 7 working days from 23% to 83%. The report also notes progress in achieving a reduction in reconviction rates of 11.6% across Tayside (the second most improved CJA area).

### **Review of Angus CJS**

The former Social Work SMT commissioned a review of Criminal Justice Services from the Tayside CJA. The review was led by Howard Llewellyn and conducted by Mr John Newton as professional advisor, assisted by Chris Johnston the CJA planning officer and George Manzie, the CJA Financial Manager. The review was commissioned to identify issues which the Council should consider for further action and to engender discussion on services and the desirability of a more comprehensive review.

While the review has yet to be finalised, the draft report includes a number of priorities including the need for premises in Forfar for CJS near to the Sheriff Court, the need to review the current ratio of qualified to unqualified staff in the service, the need to revise management arrangements for unpaid work, and the need for the continuation of the Glen Isla Project for women offenders. A copy of the report will be submitted to Committee upon completion.

### **Glen Isla Project**

The Glen Isla project was set up in response to the main findings of the National Commission on Women Offenders and as a response to our internal evaluation of services for women offenders in Angus.

The National Commission, along with local evaluation, pointed up the difficulties for women offenders in having contact with a range of different agencies and the value of bringing those services together. However, the concept of a 'one stop shop' or a woman's centre, as recommended by the Commission, has difficulties in application in a rural authority like Angus.

For the reasons outlined above, the 'Glen Isla' model is provided on an outreach basis, with a range of services being delivered at key points in cluster groups: a service in Forfar to cover Forfar, Kirriemuir and the glens; a service in Montrose to cover Montrose and Brechin; and a service in Arbroath to cover Arbroath, Carnoustie and Monifieth.

The project works with all women who are subject to:-

- High Tariff Structured Deferred Sentences
- Low Tariff Structured Deferred Sentences
- Community Payback Orders including UW only orders

- Licenses
- Supervised Bail
- Diversion
- Voluntary Throughcare

The project has proved extremely successful thus far and has been commented on favourably by the Scottish Government, the local Sheriffs and other agencies including Police Scotland. Since commencement the project has worked with 50 women. Of the 50, 19 have completed their time with the project.

- Positive outcomes are recorded in 15 of these cases i.e. reduced reoffending and positive changes in desistance elements
- 2 received custody
- 1 voluntary client disengaged
- 1 moved out of the area

As a Public Social Partnership the project is currently staffed by an NHS nurse, a Tayside Council on Alcohol mentor and a CJS Social Worker and clerical officer. Funding is being sought internally to continue the project beyond April 2015 and CJS plan to continue to fund the Social Worker post if funding is matched from the partner agencies.

## 5. PROPOSALS

Members are asked to consider the following proposals:

- a) that the Council approve the continuation of the Glen Isla Project, depending on available financial resources being identified from within the Council
- b) a transition planning group has recently commenced and will manage the transition from TCJA to Community Planning/ Council services. It is proposed that further reports are made available to Committee as this work progresses.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding from within CJS will be identified to support the continuation of the Glen Isla Project. Costs will be approximately £57,000.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:

1. MAPPA Annual Report 2013-2014
2. Tayside Community Justice Authority Annual Report 2013-14