

## **ARGYLL, BUTE AND DUNBARTONSHIRES CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE**

At a meeting of the Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership Joint Committee held in the Scott Room, Kilmardinny Arts Centre, Kilmardinny House, Bearsden on Thursday, 13 December 2007 at 2.10 p.m.

**Present:** Councillors Jonathan McColl (West Dunbartonshire Council), Simon Hutchison (East Dunbartonshire Council) and Donald McIntosh (Argyll and Bute Council).

**Attending:** **Argyll and Bute Council:** Jon Belton, Assistant Partnership Manager and Kirsteen Green, Planning and Evaluation Officer.

**East Dunbartonshire Council:** John Fleming, Assistant Partnership Manager.

**West Dunbartonshire Council:** Norman Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager; Alistair Johnston, Section Head – Accounting and Budgeting; Adrian Gray, Section Head (Resources); Janine Scott, Accountant; and Shona Barton, Committee and Members' Services Officer.

**Also Attending:** Councillor Jim Brown, West Dunbartonshire Council.

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Elaine Robertson (Argyll & Bute Council) and Marie McNair (West Dunbartonshire Council); David Anderson, Corporate Director, Communities (East Dunbartonshire Council), Douglas Dunlop, Head of Service, Children and Families (Argyll and Bute Council) and Anne Ritchie, Head of Social Work Services (Operations), (West Dunbartonshire Council).

**Councillor Jonathan McColl in the Chair**

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair, Councillor McColl, welcomed all those present to the meeting of the Joint Committee. Councillor McColl then invited everyone to introduce themselves to the meeting.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Joint Committee held on 6 September 2007 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

## **ANNUAL REPORT AND FINAL ACCOUNTS**

A report was submitted by the Treasurer to the Joint Committee providing the Annual Report and audited Final Accounts for the year to 31 March 2007.

After discussion and having heard Ms. Scott, Accountant, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to approve the annual report and final accounts for the year to 31 March 2007; and
- (2) to pass on congratulations on behalf of the Joint Committee to those officers involved in the report.

## **KPMG LLP'S FINAL AUDIT REPORT TO MEMBERS 2006/2007**

A report was submitted by the Treasurer to the Joint Committee advising of KPMG LLP's report on the audit of the final accounts 2006/07.

After discussion and having heard Ms. Scott, Accountant and Mr. Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to pass on congratulations on behalf of the Joint Committee to those officers involved in the report.

## **BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT FOR PERIOD 7, ENDING 15 NOVEMBER 2007**

A report was submitted by the Treasurer to the Joint Committee informing on how key elements within the Criminal Justice Partnership were performing against budget for the period ending 15 November 2007.

After discussion and having heard Ms. Scott, Accountant, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and

- (2) to pass on congratulations on behalf of the Joint Committee to those officers involved in the report.

### **CJA PLAN/PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2008 – 2011**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health, West Dunbartonshire Council, advising on how the Criminal Justice Partnership proposes to put in place measures which would secure the following:-

- (a) implementation of the specific objectives of the CJA Plan 2008-2011 relating to Criminal Justice Social Work;
- (b) implementation to take account of local strategic and operational issues and circumstances including compatibility with corporate and service plans; and
- (c) ensure that factors and circumstances impeding implementation are quickly identified and resolved at an appropriate level.

After discussion and having heard Mr. Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to approve the approach to the Community Justice Authority Plan as outlined in the report; and
- (3) that a copy of the full Partnership Strategic Plan be submitted to the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

### **CJA PLAN/CJA PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN 2007 – 2008**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health, West Dunbartonshire Council, advising of the progress with regards to the Criminal Justice Partnership's contribution to the Community Justice Authority, Annual Plan, 2007 – 2008.

After discussion and having heard Mr. Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to note the progress made in respect of achieving the current plan; and

- (3) that the Partnership Manager would provide a further update on the plan at the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK PERFORMANCE INSPECTION PROGRAMME 2003 – 2007, FINAL REPORT**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health, West Dunbartonshire Council, advising of the outcomes from the Criminal Justice Social Work Performance Inspection Programme 2003 – 2007 by the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA).

After discussion and having heard Mr. Belton, Assistant Partnership Manager, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to instruct the Partnership Manager to incorporate the findings of the SWIA inspectors within future service/performance plans.

### **ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL PERFORMANCE INSPECTION 2007**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health, West Dunbartonshire Council, advising of the outcome from the performance inspection of the Argyll and Bute Council social work services by the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA).

After discussion and having heard Mr. Belton, Assistant Partnership Manager, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report; and
- (2) to instruct the Partnership Manager to ensure that improvement actions are incorporated within the partnership strategic and operational planning process.

### **MANDATORY SUPERVISED ATTENDANCE ORDERS (SAO)**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health, West Dunbartonshire Council, informing of the progress in relation to the implementation of the Mandatory Supervised Attendance Orders.

After discussion and having heard Mr. Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager and Mr. Fleming, Assistant Partnership Manager, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

## **RE – CONVICTION RATES 2006/07**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health, West Dunbartonshire Council, informing of the most recent data available on reconviction rates and how local practice is addressing the issue of re-offending in conjunction with the Community Justice Authority.

After discussion and having heard Mr. Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager and Ms. Green, Planning and Evaluation Officer, in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to instruct that officers continue to evaluate re-offending and reconviction rates using available information and report annually to the Joint Committee; and
- (2) that the Partnership would continue to reflect the aims and objectives of the National Strategy and the CJA in the Partnership Strategic Plan.

## **TURNAROUND SERVICE**

A report was submitted by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health, West Dunbartonshire Council, advising of progress with regard to the establishment of a Turnaround Service within the North Strathclyde CJA area and in particular the effect upon the Argyll, Bute and Dunbartonshires Criminal Justice Partnership.

After discussion and having heard Mr. Firth, Criminal Justice Partnership Manager in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Joint Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress made with regard to the establishment of the Turnaround Service;
- (2) to instruct that the Partnership Manager ensures that the benefits of the Turnaround Service are used to maximum effect across the Partnership; and
- (3) that progress reports with regard to implementation be submitted to future meetings of the Joint Committee as appropriate.

## **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Having heard the Chair, Councillor McColl, the Joint Committee agreed to the following dates for meetings in 2008:-

Thursday, 13 March 2008 to be held in West Dunbartonshire;

Thursday, 12 June 2008 to be held in Argyll & Bute;

Thursday, 4 September 2008 to be held in West Dunbartonshire; and

Thursday, 11 December 2008 to be held in East Dunbartonshire.

The meeting closed at 3.58 p.m.