

ANGUS COUNCIL**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE 15 APRIL 1997
PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE****REVIEW OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES TO THE COURT SYSTEM****REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND DIRECTOR OF
PERSONNEL****ABSTRACT**

This report proposes an internal adjustment of management responsibilities relating to services provided to the court system within Criminal Justice Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- (i) the Social Work Committee agrees to the terms of the report;
- (ii) the Personnel and Property Services Committee agrees to:
 - (a) establish a post of Senior Social Worker (SCP 35-38), and
 - (b) delete post number 04/17 Community Service Officer (SCP 27-35).

2. INTRODUCTION

During the past twelve months the Director of Social Work has examined operational aspects of Criminal Justice Services taking into account revised National Objectives and Standards as well as external reports including 'Helping the Courts Decide', Circular 12/96 on the provision of Community Service Orders and the Government White Paper - 'Crime and Punishment'.

Criminal Justice Services are funded directly by the Scottish Office. Funding is allocated to local authorities on the basis of targets set at

the beginning of each financial year. Failure to achieve these targets can result in budgets being reduced for the following year.

Criminal Justice Services are therefore required not only to achieve increasing numbers of Probation Orders, Community Service Orders and Supervised Attendance Orders but also ensure that the National Objectives and Standards are met.

3. PROPOSAL

The current structure has limited the opportunities for developing the services to the Courts. Currently a Social Worker post is deployed on a part time basis to provide services to Court sittings in Arbroath and Forfar. This system has been supplemented by other main grade Social Workers. The current system does not provide consistency of practice and therefore fails to achieve the presented National Objectives and Standards on Court Services.

Therefore it is proposed that a post of Senior Social Worker with responsibility for all Courts in Angus is established. The postholder will be responsible for meeting all National Objectives and Standards for Court Services as well as the quality aspects of Social Enquiry Reports, likely to be approximately 770 during 1997-98.

In order to minimise the financial implications of this proposal, and to recognise the current needs of Criminal Justice Services, it is further proposed that a post of Community Service Officer be deleted. This will not have an adverse effect on service delivery.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of these proposals is detailed in Appendix 1 and amounts to £1,800. This additional expenditure will be contained in the funding from the Scottish Office for Criminal Justice Services.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance and the trade unions have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6. CONCLUSION

The Courts are an important service area for Criminal Justice Services. Consequently the quality of Service we provide the courts must be reflected in the quality of work provided to those placed on statutory orders. The proposals outlined in this report will ensure that Criminal Justice Services will be in a strong position to respond to the current and future demands on the service.

W B Robertson
Director of Social Work

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

STAFF COSTS		
		£
Create:		
Senior Social Worker	SCP 35-38	23,567
Delete:		
Community Service Officer	SCP 27-35	<u>(21,804)</u>
NET COST		1,763