

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**5 JUNE 2003**

**FUNDING FOR THE EXPANSION OF YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICES 2004/2005  
AND 2005/2006**

**REPORT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

**ABSTRACT**

This report advises members of the Social Work and Health Committee of the funding allocation from the Scottish Executive for Youth Justice services and recommends changes to the Social Work staff establishment in the Youth Justice Team as a result of the new funding being made available and an anticipated increase in workloads.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:-

- i) notes the funding allocation for Youth Justice services;
- ii) approves the establishment of:
  - 2 Resource Workers posts (SCP 27-35)
  - Senior Social Care Officer post (SCP 27-30)
  - 0.5 Clerical Assistant (SCP 3-12)
- iii) approves the deletion of the post of Family Support Officer (SCP 12-18)

**2 INTRODUCTION**

The Scottish Executive provided funding which enabled the establishment of a Youth Justice Team within the Social Work Department in the Summer of 2001. Committee report 49/01 refers. The team was established in a base at West Grimsby, Arbroath, from where it provides an authority-wide service for 12 – 18 year olds who are persistent offenders. (The definition of a persistent young offender is a young person who has committed 5 episodes of offending over the previous 6 months, or who has committed a lesser number of very serious offences). Initial recruitment to the team comprised 1½ Resource Workers, a part-time Clerical Assistant and a Senior Resource Worker. Further funding was secured from the Executive via a bid through the Angus DAAT to allow recruitment to a specialist Resource Worker post to work with young people whose offending was linked to substance misuse.

The Youth Justice Team accepts referrals from both Children's Services and Criminal Justice Services. The number of referrals, and consequently the number of active cases within the team, has increased steadily since the teams inception; for example, between September 2001 and March 2002 there were 13 active cases held within the team; between April and September 2002 this number increased to 18; between October 2002 and March 2003 it increased to 24.

There is currently a small waiting list for service due to the current size of the team, and the fact that it works in line with research findings that intensive work with young people is most effective in reducing offending. Demand has increased particularly in the 16 – 18 year old age group and an increase in referred work from, and joint work with, Criminal Justice Services.

The team has been very successful in reducing offending in the young people with whom it works and this has been reflected in increased expectations for the team's involvement by both the Children's Hearing and Sheriff Courts.

### **3 PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE YOUTH JUSTICE TEAM**

In order to meet the increased demand for services through the Youth Justice Team the following additional staffing resources are required. An increase in staff will allow specific, focussed programmes of offence work to be delivered to larger numbers of young people. In particular, there is a requirement to focus on the needs of 16 – 18 year olds being referred from Criminal Justice Service. All additional posts will be accommodated in the office at West Grimsby.

#### Post 1 Resource Worker (SCP 27-35), Youth Justice/CJS

There have been a significant number of requests from Criminal Justice Services for assessments and programmes of work to be undertaken with vulnerable young people already within the Criminal Justice system. Existing staffing levels prevent the Youth Justice Team from being able to respond effectively to these demands. Case discussions clearly identify a need for offender services which would meet the welfare needs of vulnerable young people whilst addressing their offending within structured programmes of work. There is some evidence locally of vulnerable young people having been placed in custody without full exploration of alternative strategies and interventions. Protocols have been developed which would allow direct referrals from CJS which would meet National Standards should funding for this post be approved.

This post would be joint funded with Angus Criminal Justice Service.

#### Post 2 Resource Worker (SCP 27-35), Youth Justice

Since the inception of the Youth Justice Team, referrals from Children's Services workers to undertake assessment and programmes of work with young people have steadily increased. The team is particularly keen to further develop group work programmes. Existing limited staffing resources have meant that it has been difficult to allocate the time required for groupwork planning, delivery and evaluation. An additional Resource Worker post would allow the team to meet the demand for both individual programmes of work and groupwork programmes. An additional post would also enable the development of programmes for young women, who are extremely vulnerable to custodial disposals. The Scottish Executive has required that specific programmes are in place to meet the needs of this client group.

#### Post 3 Senior Social Care Officer (SCP 27-30), Youth Justice

A key principle in the work of the Youth Justice Team is the adherence to specific individualised programmes of work with young people on their offending. Many of the young people involved have chaotic lifestyles and need support in day to day life tasks, eg attendance at employment appointments, housing issues, moving to independent accommodation, making benefit applications, specialist medical appointments etc if their social circumstances are to be stabilised. Resource Workers within the team are currently undertaking these tasks which detracts from the focus of work required to addressing offending behaviour effectively and compromises the

important principle of programme integrity. The current team establishment has one family support officer post which is currently vacant. It is proposed that this post be deleted and be replaced by a senior social care officer post reflecting the additional skills and experience required to engage with young people who are often hard to reach and to establish effective relationships with parents/carers and relevant agencies.

#### Post 4 Clerical Assistant (GS1/2) (0.5 FTE)

The current provision of administrative support to the team is inadequate and this will be exacerbated with the proposed increase to the staffing establishment.

#### **4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The costs associated with the proposed increase in the staffing establishment will be fully met from the additional funding provided by the Scottish Executive for Youth Crime in 2003/2004 and by the Angus Criminal Justice Service which jointly funds post 1.

The developments will be phased in during financial year 2003/2004, the full year costs are contained in Appendix 1.

#### **5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no Human Rights implications arising as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

#### **6 CONSULTATION**

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

The Personnel Services Manager has been consulted, and is in agreement with, the staffing proposals contained in this report.

#### **7 CONCLUSION**

The funding allocation to Angus for Youth Justice Services for 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 will enable an expansion of the provision of services for persistent young offenders and the projected increase in the volume of work to be managed.

R Peat  
Acting 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 the above report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

<b>CHILDCARE</b>	<b>2003/04 (6 mths) £</b>	<b>2004/05 (Full) £</b>
<b>Child Community</b>		
<u>Youth Justice Team</u>		
Staff costs:		
- 2 Resource Workers (SCP 27-35)	27,386	56,402
- Senior Social Care Officer (SCP 27-30)	12,366	25,706
- 0.5 Clerical Officer (SCP 3-12)	3,444	7,106
Property Costs		
Travel and Subsistence	750	1,500
Supplies and Services	1,500	3,000
Third Party Payments		
Income		
<b>Sub Total</b>	45,446	93,714
One-off Set Up Costs (Groupwork £2k, Equipment £1.5k)	3,500	
<b>Total</b>	48,946	93,714
<b>Funding:</b>		
Scottish Executive Youth Justice Funding	54,000	54,000
Angus Criminal Justice Service	10,270	14,101
Deletion of Family Support Officer	17,210	17,210
	81,480	85,311
<b>Potential Surplus/(shortfall)</b>	32,534	(8,403)

Assumptions

Any shortfalls will be regarded as the first call on new monies received in year 2.

## APPENDIX

### Youth Justice Team Establishment

#### Current

1 Senior Resource Worker		Post No. CO601IS3
3 Resource Workers		Post No's CO602IS5, CO603IS5, CO604IS5
1 Family Support Officer (Currently Vacant)		Post No: CO606AZ5
1 GS1/2 Clerical Assistant	18.5 hrs	Post No: CO605CA5

#### Proposed

- 1 Senior Resource Worker
- 5 Resource Workers
- 1 Senior Social Care Officer
- 2 part-time Clerical Assistants (18.5 hours per week)