ABSTRACT

This report provides information on the work of Tayside Community Justice Authority area in the period 2007-2008 as noted in the recently published Tayside Community Justice Authority Annual Report.

Copies of the Tayside Community Justice Annual Report are available in the Members’ Lounge.

Background information on the Tayside Community Justice Authority Area Plan 2008–2011 and Action Plan 2008–2009 was presented to the Social Work Committee in November 2007 (Report No 1040/07). This was updated in Committee Report Number 483/08 – Annual Report regarding Tayside Community Justice Authority in May 2008

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee notes the content of this report regarding the work of Tayside Community Justice Authority (CJA) in the period since its inception in April 2007 up to March 2008.

2 INTRODUCTION

The eight Community Justice Authorities (CJAs) in Scotland were established under the Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005, and began their first formal year of operation on 1 April 2007, following a ‘shadow’ year. For information Community Justice Authorities are required to monitor the performance of those agencies responsible for all criminal justice services in their area in carrying out agreed actions in the Area Plan, and to allocate resources provided by the Scottish Government to local authority criminal justice social work services.

Tayside Community Justice Authority (CJA) is a strategic partnership focussed on the reduction of re-offending within Tayside and thereby contributing to a reduction in the fear of crime in local communities. It is required, through legislation, to produce an Area Plan and report annually on the progress of this plan.

For members information the statutory partners of Tayside CJA, alongside the operational arrangements and resource management structure for the Tayside CJA are noted in detail within the Annual Report.

Progress as Noted in Annual Report

Tayside CJA produced an Area Plan for 2007-2008, which contained a 38 point Action Plan agreed by all partners, and this formed the basis of partnership activity for
that year. The Tayside CJA Annual Report 2007 - 2008 outlines the progress that has been made between April 2007 and March 2008.

The Annual Report notes that progress, either in whole or in part, has been achieved in all of the actions in that first Action Plan, which was based on the 23 outcomes referred to within the National Strategy for the Management of Offenders. Those areas where work requires to be completed have been rolled forward in 2008-2009. An extract from the Tayside CJA Annual Report at Appendix 1 indicates work which has been achieved by the Tayside CJA in the period 2007 – 2008 and work which has been carried forward.

The Annual Report also provides baseline information in relation to the activities and performance of the CJA itself and of partner bodies. It is planned that in the future the Annual Report will capture comparative performance year on year and will outline key areas where the CJA will seek to improve performance in Tayside.

It is of note that, over the last year, work has progressed on a National Performance Framework for CJAs and this framework will be used to report on CJA performance as of April 2009.

**Partnership Work as Noted in the Annual Report**

The Tayside CJA Annual Report notes that Tayside CJA is making a difference through ensuring the engagement of a broad range of partner agencies on formally agreed actions which support the objectives of the CJA. These actions are clearly articulated within the Area Plan and Action Plan. The achievements which are the result of the active co-operation of partner agencies are listed in the Annual Report. As noted previously those areas where work will be rolled forward to 2008 – 2009 are also noted.

In addition to developing the CJA as a strategic planning and performance monitoring body with its own clear and separate identity, the CJA has ensured that its officers have a place within Community Planning Partnerships, on Drug and Alcohol Action Teams, and on Domestic Abuse Partnerships.

Tayside CJA has established a clear remit for and membership of CJA planning groups, the structure of which is detailed in the Annual Report. There is representation from criminal justice services on these planning groups. Short-life working groups in specific areas have been supported and have reported to the CJA and the Scottish Government as required.

**Statistical Information**

Within the Annual Report there is a statistical breakdown of some key criminal justice areas. It is hoped that this statistical breakdown will provide a baseline for comparison within the next Annual Report and will more clearly demonstrate areas for improvement at that time.

Lastly the Annual Report indicates that the targets for next year are set within the Action Plan 2009-2011, and are in addition to developing those work-streams referred on from the earlier plan. The Tayside CJA will continue to effectively manage high risk offenders through Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements, and respond to central government guidance in these matters.

3 **PROPOSAL**

In addition to noting the contents of this report, it is proposed that the Committee instruct the Director of Social Work and Health to update the committee about the work of Tayside Community Justice Authority on an annual basis following publication of the Tayside CJA Annual Report in 2009.
4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

6 EQUALITIES IMPACT STATEMENT

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment is not required.

7 CONSULTATION

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

8 CONCLUSION

The Committee is asked to note the content of this report.

The CJA has, as is outlined in this first Annual Report, engaged strategically with partner agencies and worked with existing community planning forums to reduce re-offending in Tayside.

The Annual Report reflects the commitment of partner agencies in Tayside to delivering the Tayside Community Justice Authority Action Plan in the period 2007 - 2008 both in terms of the tasks outlined and in the spirit of closer partnership working.

R Peat
Director of Social Work and Health

NOTE: The undernoted 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 a material extent in preparing the above report.

APPENDIX 1

EXTRACT FROM TAYSIDE CJA ANNUAL REPORT

Through the co-operation of partner agencies, we have achieved the following:-

- established the Tayside Community Justice Authority as a statutory body, with its own clear identity. We have agreed membership and standing orders, and met relevant legislative requirements in relation to the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, and equalities legislation, and have agreed frequency of reporting to the CJA on key areas of performance for partner agencies
- established the remits and membership of the main CJS planning groups – Statistics Group, Outcomes Group, Joint Workforce Development Group and Area Plan Implementation Group
- established a schedule of meetings between the Chief Officer and Chief Social Work Officers, criminal justice social work managers and Governors-in-Charge of local prisons, to ensure that good channels of communication are maintained
- agreed with the Scottish Prison Service that, where possible, Tayside male prisoners will be held in HMP & YOI Perth
- expanded the membership of the Throughcare Network, to increase partner agencies' capacity to deliver on joined-up offender management services from prison through to community reintegration
- we have reviewed delivery arrangements for prison-based social work services, and one local authority now holds the contract for these services in Tayside prisons. A performance framework has been developed for these services which has been used as a good practice template for similar service provision nationally.
- implemented the national guidance on Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), including a formally agreed information protocol for all partners, established a strategic MAPPA Oversight Group, and prepared for submission of the Annual Report under Sect 11 Management of Offenders etc (Scotland) Act 2005
- implemented the Integrated Case Management approach within prison establishments, the multi-agency case discussion based model of forward planning for individual prisoners. Performance is reported to the CJA twice a year
- completed a Best Value Review of the method of allocation of grant (allocated) under Sect 27 Social Work (Scotland) Act 1967, and agreed a mechanism for resource allocation. This review included a review of the Tayside Criminal Justice Social Work Partnership management arrangements.
- developed a set of performance indicators in relation to agreed core standards and minimum performance standards for Criminal Justice Social Work services which will be reported annually to the CJA
- appointed a Training Officer for criminal justice social work services who will co-ordinate local training requirements in relation to the national Accredited Programme agenda, linking with partner agencies as required
- introduced an Intensive Support Programme for women offenders who have received a custodial sentence, to better facilitate their access to services, and to improve the benefit they receive from that access
- ensured delivery of the Accredited Community Sex Offenders Groupwork Programme across Tayside
- ensured delivery of a domestic abuse perpetrators programme in all three local authority areas, for convicted offenders, as part of a Probation Order
- developed and agreed a protocol for the risk assessment and management of forensic patients discharged from secure hospital units in Tayside
received regular briefings at CJA formal meetings, from the Area Procurator Fiscal, in respect of the implementation of the Criminal Proceedings etc (Reform) (Scotland) Act 2007.

Areas where work will be rolled forward include the following:-

- The CJA has identified Substance Misuse as its area for improvement within the Area Plan 2008-2011. A Tayside directory of these services has been produced. A multi-agency Criminal Justice Substance Misuse Steering Group has been established. This group has commenced a review of the care pathways for offenders who engage with substance misuse services.
- An Audit and Review of Supported Accommodation for Offenders has been completed, and operational protocols are in development, to be agreed in 2008.
- A review of the funding arrangements for East Port House Bail and Probation Hostel has been completed, increasing income from third parties for placements. Work on aspects of this review will continue in 2008.
- A review of Bail, Diversion and Mediation, led by the Area Procurator Fiscal, has been completed, and further work will take place to develop consistency of approach across Tayside in relation to Bail schemes, as far as is practicable.
- An evaluative review of Tayside Arrest Referral Scheme has been carried out, and relevant actions will be progressed in 2008.
- We commissioned a Training Needs Analysis for partner agencies, and actions from this report will be taken forward in 2008. Discussions with partner agencies, and with JobCentre Plus and Careers Scotland, and with the Scottish Prison Service have taken place, and the area of employability for offenders will be taken forward in 2008-2009.
- Integrated Case Management – we have asked the Scottish Prison Service to report on family attendance at ICM case conferences when they report on ICM performance.
- At the request of the government a review of service provision for offenders who demonstrate mental health problems (but who are not diagnosed as mentally ill) was carried out, and this work will be consolidated in 2008-2009.
- A Forensic Services Commissioning Group, chaired by NHS Tayside, has been established and will be taken forward in 2008.
- The draft Communications Strategy requires to be finalised in 2008. The CJA website is currently operating in 'test' format, but will be 'live' in 2008. Some partner agencies have begun a review of their public information, and this will be continued. The CJA requires to develop engagement strategies with the public, developing within local approaches to Citizens’ Panels and customer satisfaction surveys. Two national newspapers have carried large articles about the operation of two Community Service schemes in Tayside, and another wide circulation newspaper carried an article in relation to the Drug Testing and Treatment Orders (DTTO) scheme. All were positive in tone, and emphasised the positive aspects of community based sentencing. We intend to lead further articles to the media in 2008-2009.
- Following a seminar for non-statutory agencies the CJA has established a Voluntary Sector Consultative Forum, and this will be taken forward in 2008.