ABSTRACT

This report informs elected members of a High Risk Offenders Self Evaluation undertaken by the Social Work Criminal Justice Services. The report highlights the strong performance of Angus Criminal Justice Services in the field of high risk offender work and the main areas for improvement. A copy of the improvement plan is appended to this report.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

i) notes the outcome of the High Risk Offenders Self Evaluation and the performance improvement plan arising from it;

ii) instructs the Director of Social Work and Health to submit a report to the Social Work and Health Committee in April 2012.

2 BACKGROUND

In 2010 the Scottish Government required that all local authority criminal justice services conduct a self evaluation of their work with high risk violent and sexual offenders. The self evaluation was to be carried out under the auspices of the Association of Directors of Social Work (ADSW) and in partnership with the then Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA.) This activity was organised within the Tayside Criminal Justice Services (CJS) Partnership area and it included input from the Community Justice Authority. The agreed process was as follows:-

1. Each local authority CJS was to complete a self evaluation using the model provided by SWIA.

2. The self evaluation was considered by SWIA and for peer evaluation from Perth & Kinross and Dundee CJS.

3. There was an opportunity for further amendment before the submission of the final self evaluation.

4. The development of a self improvement plan.

5. Approval of the self improvement plan by the partnership group and by SWIA.

6. A first progress report to SWIA in April 2011.
It was known that SWIA would report to the Scottish Government progress within the self evaluation and self improvement process and any issues arising.

3 ANGUS HIGH RISK OFFENDER SELF EVALUATION AND SELF IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The self evaluation contained 33 performance indicators under five headings: Outcomes, Impact, Key processes, Staff, and Leadership. Within these categories, there were specific questions, for example: what we do to reduce harm posed by sex offenders, obtaining feedback from key partners about our effectiveness, the quality of our risk assessments, and links to child protection and adult protection systems.

Angus CJS developed a group whose task it was to undertake the self evaluation. This group included staff at all levels within criminal justice and youth justice services and a representative from strategic planning.

Of the 33 indicators within the self evaluation, Angus performance was scored as follows:-

1 very good;
24 good;
3 mixed good/adequate;
5 adequate;
0 poor.

Overall our performance was assessed as good. There were no areas of poor performance.

Our self evaluation evidenced **good** performance in the following areas:-

- Delivery of key processes and securing outcomes (i.e. reducing harm)
- Risk assessment and risk management
- Support and guidance for staff
- Standard of case recording
- Middle and senior manager oversight

Our self evaluation evidences **adequate** performance in the following areas:

- Feedback from service users and key partners about our performance
- Community understanding of risk and risk management
- Adult protection – knowledge and awareness
- Corporate and elected member ownership of high risk offender work

The self evaluation assessed our capacity for improvement as **good**. The self improvement plan focuses mainly on improving the performance areas which were defined as adequate, as noted above. This was reviewed in April 2011 and, although this was very soon after the formulation of the improvement plan, good progress had been made in a number of areas.

Very positive feedback was received from SWIA about the Angus self evaluation and improvement plan and about the rigorous process we had followed to carry out these tasks.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from 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 IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective. 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

This report informs elected members of the High Risk Offenders Self Evaluation undertaken by Angus CJS and Youth Justice and the development of an improvement plan for high risk offender work.

R PEAT
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

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.

SW&H/RP/GB