

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 31 JANUARY 2017

COMMUNITY JUSTICE TRANSITION PLAN

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Planning responsibilities for Criminal Justice Services in Angus currently lie with Tayside Community Justice Authority however following consultation and legislative changes the responsibility will revert to the Local Authority specifically Community Planning Partnerships. The Scottish Government has also established a new body, Community Justice Scotland, which will have responsibility for training and development as well as for devising a suitable performance framework for Community Justice Services. The Scottish Government have provided three years fixed term funding of £50,000 per annum to Angus Council to support this transition.
- 1.2 Reference is made to Report 94/15 to the Social Work and Health Committee which advised members of changes to the Criminal Justice Service in Angus. Reference is also made to the appended Angus Council Transition Plan.
- 1.3 The statutory guidance accompanying the Community Justice Scotland Act requires statutory partners, such as local authorities Police Scotland, the Scottish Prison Service and others work together with the Community and with the Voluntary Sectors to produce a Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan which seeks to
- Prevent and reduce further offending
 - Safely and effectively manage and support those who have committed offences to reintegrate into local communities and realise their potential for the benefits of all citizen
 - Shift the balance of community and custodial sentences y increasing the use of community orders and reducing the use of short term custodial sentence
 - Improving the arrangements for reintegrating offenders from custody into communities

2. PROGRESS UPDATE

- 2.1 The Scottish Government required that each local authority prepare a transition plan to cover the last year of the Criminal Justice Authorities and that this plan be submitted to them by 31 March 2016. The plan is attached for member's perusal. An Angus Community Justice Partnership has been established and its inaugural meeting was held on 24th November 2016.
- 2.2 As noted the Scottish Government have provided funding to support the transition. We have also been advised that the current funding arrangements

whereby Criminal Justice Service receive 'ring fenced' monies from the Scottish Government are unlikely to change however the Scottish Government have also advised that the means by which this figure is calculated will also change. This is proposed in 2017 which is also the first year of the new planning arrangements. It is difficult to assess the financial implications given the number of variable factors however it would be reasonable to assume that at best budgets will remain static.

3. COMMUNITY JUSTICE PLAN

- 3.1 The Angus Community Justice Outcomes Plan is currently being prepared in line with the requirement for submission to the Scottish Government by 31 March 2017. The plan will be made available to members at that time.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government launched the draft National Community Justice Strategy at a national event in Edinburgh on 24 November 2016.

Action Plan

The Angus Community Planning Partnership will be required to prepare and submit an action plan in response to the final report within six weeks of publication of the final report.

Contact for further information:

Alan Hope, Area Manager, Criminal Justice Service, Children and Learning Directorate

Email: HopeA@angus.gcsx.gov.uk