

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 1 MAY 2018

REPORT ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE SHARED SERVICES

REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

ABSTRACT

Following the dissolution of the Tayside Community Justice Authority, approval was granted on 20 June 2017 for payment to be made to Dundee City Council and Perth & Kinross Council for their continued provision of specific services hosted by those local authorities on behalf of Angus Criminal Justice Service. The purposes of this report is to seek approval to continue funding for two of these services, to notify the committee of the discontinuation of funding for one service and to advise the committee on the provision of these services in the past year.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approve the payments to Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Councils as detailed at section 5 below.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Council Plan 2013-2017:-

- 7. our communities are safe, secure and vibrant
- 8. we have improved the health and wellbeing of our people and inequalities are reduced
- 9. individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services

3. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to report number 203/17; item 14 of the minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 20 June 2017, and report 258/17; item 5 of the minute of the Policy and Resource Committee of 29 August 2017.

4. CURRENT POSITION

Tayside Community Justice Authority (TCJA) was disestablished on 31st March 2017. The Scottish Government now allocates the ring-fenced grant allocation monies for Criminal Justice Social Work Services to local authorities directly.

A small number of criminal justice services have historically been delivered on a pan-Tayside basis, reflecting the need to ensure efficiencies of scale. Prior to the disestablishment of TCJA, the grant allocation monies came in for Tayside and the arrangements for the financing of shared or hosted services were made by the TCJA and the hosting authority.

Now that grant allocation monies come direct to local authorities, an arrangement has been put in place to fund the continuation of shared or hosted services. These shared services have been evaluated and monitored during 2017/18 and an agreement reached to discontinue the Apex Service to which Angus Criminal Justice Service had contributed £23,254 per annum.

In preparation for this change in service delivery model, Angus Criminal Justice Service has established relationships with Skills Development Scotland to ensure the availability of key employability supports locally, developed 'in house' arrangements for support and established links with voluntary organisations to support service users into employment and training.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 Approval of payment of £37,500 to Perth and Kinross Council as the Angus Criminal Justice Service contribution to the Tayside Arrest Referral Service providing services to individuals after arrest to support and 'signpost' to services for help with substance misuse, mental health and other issues. From April 2017 to March 2018 there were:-

- 249 identified contacts
- 162 actual contacts
- 61 progressed to the TARS service and were provided with support in the Angus area.

5.2 Approval of payment of £88,000 to Dundee City Council as the Angus Criminal Justice Service contribution to fund the Tay Project, a specialist service hosted by Dundee City Council providing assessment and programme intervention for those convicted of sexual offences as a requirement of the Court. From April 2017 to March 2018 the Tay Project provided:-

- 32 assessments for Court
- 13 individuals began the Moving Forward Making Changes Group Work Programme
- 16 individuals completed the Moving Forward making Changes Group Work Programme

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As noted in the previous report costs will be met in full through the criminal justice grant allocation monies.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The proposed arrangements outlined in this report are for one year only due to the nature of the Scottish Government criminal justice social work grant allocation.

There are no formal procurement implications arising from this arrangement because the arrangement is outwith the scope of the public procurement rules as a public-public co-operation arrangement. That notwithstanding, in line with good governance arrangements, the current informal agreements on the operation of the shared services will be regularised in consultation with Legal & Democratic Services during 2018/19.

8. CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place with relevant officers from each organisation as well as with officers from the other two Local Authorities.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed 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.

REPORT AUTHOR: Alan Hope
EMAIL DETAILS: PEOPLE@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices: None