

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 25 OCTOBER 2022

REPORT ON JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SHARED SERVICES

REPORT BY KATHRYN LINDSAY, DIRECTOR – CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND JUSTICE

ABSTRACT

Dundee City Council host the Tay Project, a specialist service providing assessment and programme intervention for those convicted of sexual offences, as a requirement of the Court. This is delivered on a pan-Tayside basis, with grant contributions from Perth and Kinross and Angus Councils. The purpose of this report is to provide and update and seek approval to continue funding this service.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approve the payments to Dundee City Council as detailed at section 5 below and delegate authority to the Director of Children, Families and Justice, to execute the agreement and any other necessary documentation in relation to the Tay Project, on behalf of the Council.
- (ii) endorse proposals to continue to pursue partnership approaches with Dundee City and Perth and Kinross Councils to deliver key justice social work services
- (iii) note the partnership arrangement in place for the delivery of a Custody Assessment and Referral Service pilot project.
- (iv) Note the intent of the Angus Council Justice Social Work Service to apply to become a Caledonian System delivery site when Scottish Government open the fund for applications.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

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

- Our communities are safe, secure and vibrant
- We have improved the health and wellbeing of our people and inequalities are reduced
- Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services

3. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to report item 8 of the Policy and Resources Committee of 1 May 2018, [Report 149/18](#), which sought approval to continue funding for services hosted by Dundee City Council and Perth & Kinross Council and notify the committee of the discontinuation of funding for one service.

4. CURRENT POSITION

A small number of justice services have historically been delivered on a pan-Tayside basis, reflecting the need to ensure efficiencies of scale. Prior to the disestablishment Tayside Community Justice Authority (TCJA) in June 2017, 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.

The Scottish Government now allocates ring-fenced grant allocation monies for Justice Social Work Services direct to local authorities, therefore alternate arrangements were put in place to fund the continuation of shared or hosted services.

Further review and evaluation resulted in the discontinuation of the Tayside Arrest Referral service hosted by Perth & Kinross Council with a refreshed delivery model for a custody assessment and referral service being piloted.

5. PROPOSALS

5.1 Tay Project

It is proposed that the longstanding arrangements for the hosted service across Tayside are continued. To support the continuation of the existing model of provision, the following is proposed for 2022/23:

Payment of **£94,074** 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. This is a **£9,000** reduction in fee from 2021/22, based on in kind social work provision, calculated against our overall grant contribution, as an Angus Justice Social Worker is now based with the Tay Project for 1 day a week for the year.

From April 2021 to March 2022 the Tay Project provided:

- 21 assessments for Court
- 8 individuals began the intensive Moving Forward Making Changes Group Work Programme
- 5 individuals completed the intensive Moving Forward making Changes Group Work Programme
- Access to specialist consultation and advice

As the data below shows, demand for assessments has increased from the previous year. The pandemic continued to impact on delivery, as the Tay Project was restricted to running mini-groups, which is reflected within the numbers of commencement and completions.

Assessment data:

Year (Jan-Jan)	Angus	Dundee	P&K	Total
2017-2018	32 (28.3%)	39 (34.5%)	42 (37.2%)	113
2018-2019	21 (18.3%)	55 (47.8%)	39 (33.9%)	115
2020-2021	19 (25.4%)	34 (45.3%)	22 (29.3%)	75

Commencement data:

Year (Jan-Jan)	Angus	Dundee	P&K	Total
2017-2018	13 (32.5%)	15 (37.5%)	12 (30%)	40
2018-2019	13 (27.7%)	19 (40.4%)	15 (31.9%)	47
2020-2021	8 (40%)	8 (40%)	4 (20%)	20

Completion Comparison date:

Year (Jan-Jan)	Angus	Dundee	P&K	Total
2017-2018	16 (50%)	11 (34.4%)	5 (15.6%)	32
2018-2019	13 (23.2%)	27 (48.2%)	16 (28.6%)	56
2020-2021	11 (34.4%)	13 (40.6%)	8 (25%)	32

5.2 Custody Assessment and Referral Service Pilot

A grant payment was made of **£13,317** to the Custody Assessment and Referral Service (CARS) pilot project developed by Positive Steps, in partnership with Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Angus Justice Services, utilising covid recovery grant funding from Scottish Government. The CARS project offers support to Angus residents being held in police custody in the centralised Dundee Custody Centre.

Project workers offer advice and help with a view to referring the individuals in custody to a service. If the person agrees, the project worker will carry out an assessment of the person's needs and arrange a contact with an appropriate service. Project workers also liaise with Angus Justice Social Work for follow up support and advice and/or liaison with the allocated Angus Justice worker.

This approach uses the unique opportunity of engagement with the justice system to identify those who may benefit from enhanced support to access a range of treatment and support services in their local area.

5.3 The Caledonian System

The Caledonian System is an integrated approach to addressing domestic abuse. It combines a court-ordered programme for men, aimed at changing their behaviour, with support services for women and children.

Scottish Government currently provides funding to 19 local authorities for the delivery of the Caledonian System, which includes a Men's Programme; Women's Service; and Children's Service. All the services are based on risk and needs assessment and are designed to prevent and minimise possible harm to women and children.

Dundee City and Perth & Kinross are two of the 19 areas who have implemented the Caledonian System, which is hosted within the Tay Project. Scottish Government have given notice of their intent to fund a further roll out of the Caledonian System later this financial year.

Currently, Angus Council Justice Service deliver the locally developed Fergus Programme, to address domestic abuse, the programme has similarities to the Caledonian System but is not supported by national funding and infrastructure.

Committee are advised that it would be the intention of the Angus Council Justice Social Work Service to apply to become a Caledonian System delivery site when Scottish Government open the fund for applications. Discussion has taken place regarding the opportunity for further development of the existing pan-Tayside approach, within the hosted services delivered by the Tay Project. Relevant officers across both Dundee City and Perth & Kinross Councils are supportive such an approach.

These partnership approaches critically ensure that high quality, resilient, public protection services remain viable across the area, whilst also supporting the development of good practice, skills and knowledge across partner agencies.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As noted above, costs are met in full through ring-fenced criminal justice social work grant allocation funding provided by the Scottish Government.

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 out with the scope of the public procurement rules as a public-public cooperation arrangement. That notwithstanding, in line with good governance arrangements, a partnership agreement is in place between Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Angus Councils and details the operation of the shared service delivered by the Tay Project.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and there are no adverse impacts noted.

9. 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: Peter McDonnell – Service Leader

EMAIL DETAILS: People@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices: none