

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	23 January 2008
Report by:	Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

Subject:	Justice Services Inspection Report
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1 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise committee that the Justice Inspection Report has now been signed off by the Social Work Inspection Agency.

2 Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the outcome of the SWIA inspection of Criminal Justice Services be noted.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Social Work Services Inspection Agency (SWIA) inspected Criminal Justice Services in North and South Lanarkshire jointly in 2005. A report was prepared which was published in the spring of 2006. A report was made to the Social Work Committee on 3 May 2006.
- 3.2 The report highlighted good areas of practice and also identified areas for improvement.
- 3.3 An Improvement Action Plan was submitted to SWIA in June 2006 and agreed by them. They indicated that they would require an update in the summer of 2007. This was submitted. SWIA paid a final visit, meeting both Councils in October 2007.

4 Current Situation

- 4.1 The specific areas that SWIA were interested in were the areas of risk assessment, case recording, enforcement and compliance, community service, throughcare and quality assurance.
- 4.2 SWIA noted progress in all areas.
- 4.3 Comprehensive guidance has been issued to staff in relation to risk assessment across the two Lanarkshire authorities. This will be updated once new risk assessment tools are formally launched by the Scottish Government in early part of 2008. Training for staff is already scheduled. The Guidance will be changed to reflect that.

- 4.4 Considerable progress has been made in relation to case recording with the introduction of the electronic system. SWIA noted the progress made.
- 4.5 SWIA noted that a considerable amount of work had been carried out with staff in relation to enforcement and compliance including the issuing of a guidance note and training. The two Lanarkshire authorities will participate in a research study looking at enforcement and compliance in order to identify what further areas of practice require to be improved.
- 4.6 In relation to community service orders, SWIA asked the two Lanarkshire authorities to address issues in relation to the time taken to undertake the order. They also asked us to consider opportunities for joint management.
- 4.7 In relation to the time taken to complete orders, both authorities have been able to address outstanding problems and waiting times have been reduced to manageable levels. The authorities have both considered the opportunity for joint management, but recognising the importance of reparation within local communities have agreed to maintain two separate services although every opportunity is taken to look at ensuring consistency in practice and developing joint training opportunities.
- 4.8 Throughcare is a service run by North Lanarkshire for both Lanarkshire authorities and issues regarding with transfer of cases have been appropriately addressed.
- 4.9 SWIA were content with the progress made by both authorities in relation to quality assurance.

5 Employee Implications

- 5.1 There are no employee implications for the Council.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications for the Council

7 Other Implications

- 7.1 There will be no further Inspections of this nature. The Lanarkshire Community Justice Authority (CJA) however will have responsibility for developing a performance reporting framework which will continue to monitor some of the above issues.

8 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1 These have been addressed.

Harry Stevenson
Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

13 December 2007

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Improve community safety

Previous References

- Social Work Committee Report 3 May 2006

List of Background Papers

- SWIA Criminal Justice Inspection
- Lanarkshire Action Plan
- Letter of Confirmation from SWIA of outcome of inspection

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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