

Report

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Report to: | Social Work Resources Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 3 May 2006 |
| Report by: | Executive Director (Social Work Resources) |

| | |
|----------|---|
| Subject: | SWIA - Performance Inspection of Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping |
|----------|---|

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise Social Work Committee of the outcome of the SWIA report on the Performance Inspection of Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Grouping

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the outcome of the inspection be noted
- (2) that the proposals for action are approved
- (3) that a report on the progress of the Action Plan be presented to a future meeting

3. Background

3.1. This is the seventh in a series of inspections of Criminal Justice Social Work Services across Scotland.

3.2. Only part of the service was inspected – reports to court, assessment and management of offenders subject to Probation and Community Service, the management of high risk offenders and organisation and management arrangements.

3.3. The inspection was of the service across the Lanarkshire grouping which comprises North and South Lanarkshire Councils.

4. Findings and Recommendations

4.1. The Inspection Report identifies similar themes that were identified in the other Inspection Reports in Scotland.

4.2. It identified some areas of good practice but other areas where there is a need to ensure consistent improvement.

4.3. The report particularly commended the management of high risk sex offenders and the work done in partnership with other agencies and services which contribute to the reducing offending agenda.

- 4.4. It identified various areas of practice that require to be improved including consistency in approach to risk assessment, case recording and enforcement in compliance.
- 4.5. It identified particular problems within Community Service that require to be addressed.
- 4.6. It recommended a more systematic approach to quality assurance.

5. Grouping Response

- 5.1. The report also acknowledged that the grouping was aware of the areas of weakness and had already identified an action plan to progress the issues. The report makes no acknowledgement of staffing difficulties that have impacted on the delivery of service particularly in Community Service.

6. Proposed Action

- 6.1. Both North and South Lanarkshire Councils individually and collectively through the Lanarkshire grouping, have recognised the need to move forward on the agenda. As acknowledged in the report we were already aware of the strength's and weakness of the organisation and the outcome of the inspection helps to confirm with staff the areas that need to be addressed.
- 6.2. Both Councils have produced an action plan both for internal practice and for joint activity across the grouping.
- 6.3. The establishment of the community justice authorities from 3 April 2006 will mean that some of the issues in relation to performance improvement will be taken forward in that context.

7. Employee Implications

- 7.1. No direct implications except that there is an agenda of improvement for the staff to progress. Work is already underway with both the managers and the staff group to address the issues identified.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1. None directly although the report does identify the requirement to prioritise input where there are scarce resources.

9. Consultation

- 9.1. The response to the report has been prepared in consultation with North Lanarkshire Council, our partners in the grouping.

Harry Stevenson
Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

6 April 2006

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Health and Safety Communities

Previous References

- None

List of Background Papers

- SWIA Performance Inspection of Criminal Justice Social Work Services – Inspection of Lanarkshire Grouping 2006

Contact for Further Information

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

Mairi Brackenridge, Head of Justice Services

Ext: 3715 (Tel: 01698 453715)

E-mail: mairi.brackenridge@southlanarkshire.gov.uk