

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Personnel and Management Services Committee - 10 February 2003

REPORT ON: Fast Track Children's Hearings for Persistent Young Offenders - Staffing

REPORT BY: Director of Personnel and Management Services

REPORT NO: 50-2003

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report advises members that Dundee has been selected to pilot a scheme of Fast Track Children's Hearings for persistent young offenders and seeks approval to establish new posts that are required by the Council to service this initiative .

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Personnel and Management Services Committee approves the establishment of the following posts, in the Social Work Department:-
- 2.1.1 a temporary post of Resource Worker (CHOICE project) for a period of 2 years, graded SCP27-35 (£18,878 - £23,930);
- 2.1.2 a temporary post of Residential Resource Worker (Community Support Team) for a period of 2 years, graded SCP 31-37 (£21,536 - £25,241);
- 2.1.3 a temporary post of Administrative Assistant for a period of 2 years, graded AP3 (£16,673 - £18,296);
- 2.1.4 a temporary post of Senior Clerical Assistant for a period of 2 years, graded GS3 (£13,124 - £13,664).
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Personnel and Management Services Committee approves the establishment of the following post, in the Support Services Department:-
- 2.2.1 a temporary post of Clerical Assistant for a period of 2 years, graded GS1/2 (£9,680 - £12,899).

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of establishing the above posts will be £98,190 in a full financial year. The costs will be funded in full by the Scottish Executive's Fast Track Children's Hearing for Persistent Young Offenders pilot initiative.

4 **LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The proposals in this report promote improved safety for local communities and the citizens of Dundee.

5 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The proposed actions outlined in this report seek to promote the improved equality of opportunity and social inclusion of children and young people at risk of being involved in offending behaviour.

6 **MAIN TEXT**

6.1 **Background**

- 6.1.1 In June 2002, the Scottish Executive announced plans to pilot new arrangements that involve fast tracking of persistent young offenders through the Children's Hearing system. In October 2002, Dundee was one of three sites chosen by the Executive as a pilot site.

6.2 **Implementation Arrangements**

- 6.2.1 This initiative will be delivered through a combination of existing and new staff. A number of dedicated staff will be involved in completing assessments, with new services being commissioned to ensure programme places are guaranteed if required. To service these arrangements there will be new administration staff to reduce delays and collect data. The financial implications of establishing these new posts are outlined in the Financial Appendix to this report.
- 6.2.2 A local implementation group has been established to involve all agencies in developing a strategic partnership for planning and implementing the pilot scheme. This is chaired by the Children's Services Manager and includes representatives of the Social Work and Education Departments, Dundee Children's Panel, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Tayside Police, NHS Tayside, Procurator Fiscal and Sheriff Clerks Office, Who Cares? Scotland and Victim Support.

7 **CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 Consultation has been undertaken with all the agencies and organisations represented on the Youth Justice Strategy Group. The Chief Executive, Director of Social Work, Director of Support Services and the Director of Finance have also been consulted in the preparation of this report. The Trade Unions have also been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

J.C. Petrie
Director of Personnel and Management Services

27 January 2003

FINANCIAL APPENDIX

Post	Grade	Full Year Costs £	Department
Residential Resource Worker	31 - 37	21,536	Social Work
Resource Worker	27 - 35	18,878	Social Work
Administrative Assistant AP3	23 - 26	16,673	Social Work
Clerical Assistant GS3	13 - 15	13,124	Social Work
Clerical Assistant GS1/2	3 - 12	12,296	Support Services
		82,507	
National Insurance & Superannuation		15,683	
Total (2002/03 prices)		98,190	