

City Chambers
DUNDEE
DD1 3BY

15th June 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

You are requested to attend a MEETING of the **SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE** to be held in the City Chambers, City Square, Dundee on Monday, 25th June, 2012 following the meetings of the Education and City Development Committees called for 6.00 pm.

Yours faithfully

DAVID K DORWARD

Chief Executive

Members are reminded that, in terms of The Councillors Code, it is their responsibility to make decisions about whether to declare an interest in any item on this agenda and whether to take part in any discussions or voting.

This will include all interests, whether or not entered on your Register of Interests, which might be perceived as influencing your opinion/vote on any matter.

AGENDA OF BUSINESS

1 CASES SUB-COMMITTEE - RECONSTITUTION (AN102-2012)

On a reference to Article I of the minute of meeting of 19th August, 2002 the Committee requires to set up a Cases Sub-Committee the remit of which would be to consider and decide on the provision of care packages exceeding agreed authorised limits and act in all individual cases in terms of the relevant legislation and policy across client groups including:-

- The assistance of older people or those with disabilities or illness and other individuals in need.
- The supervision and care of individuals on probation or release from prison or other forms of detention.
- The care of individual children in need including all arrangements for dealing with individual children in the care of the Council.

The Sub-Committee comprises three members on the basis of two members of the Administration, and one member of the Labour Group (where practicable).

Committee's instructions are requested.

2 CASES SUB-COMMITTEE - MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of Cases Sub-Committee held on 1st May, 2012 is submitted for information and record purposes.

3 ROSEBANK CARE HOME CLOSURE/RE-PROVISIONING

(Report No 238-2012 by Director of Social Work, copy attached).

4 STANDARD CHARGES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY RESIDENTIAL UNITS 2012-2013

(Report No 239-2012 by Director of Social Work, copy attached).

5 OPTIONS APPRAISAL - ELMS SECURE UNIT

(Report No 241-2012 by Director of Social Work, copy attached).

6 RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELMS SECURE RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

(Report No 240-2012 by Director of Social Work, copy attached).

7 FISCAL WORK ORDERS

(Report No 242-2012 by Director of Social Work, copy attached).

8 COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDERS

(Report No 243-2012 by Director of Social Work, copy attached).

9 WHOLE SYSTEM APPROACH TO YOUTH JUSTICE

(Report No 244-2012 by Director of Social Work, copy attached).

10 RESETTLEMENT PILOT (AN103-2012)

The Government Reducing Re-offending Programme focuses on the 4 key projects of young people who offend, pre-disposal, effective community disposals and community re-integration in order to reduce re-offending rates and short-term imprisonment.

The community re-integration project focuses on improving the re-integration of short-term prisoners, who are more likely to re-offend on release and receive repeat custodial sentences. In Dundee, typically over 300 adult males will receive short-term prison sentences every year with only about a third electing to receive voluntary support on their release.

The Resettlement Pilot will be delivered by Criminal Justice Social Work and HMP Perth to develop a more co-ordinated and pro-active approach. It consists of 6 key stages, from information sharing from the point of sentence; an immediate needs screening on arrival at the prison; a comprehensive needs screening once stabilised; custodial case management; a pre-release review meeting; and community case management. Where necessary, a 7th stage focuses on their return to custody.

The pilot reflects existing work between a dedicated Criminal Justice Female Offenders Team and HMP Cornton Vale. Together, this work will ensure that the needs of male and female short-term prisoners are proactively identified and addressed. As part of this, the Criminal Justice Service is also developing relations with Tayside Police to ensure a more targeted approach towards persistent offenders on release from both prisons.

Criminal Justice Services will receive additional funding of £32,000 to contribute towards delivery of the pilot in 2012-13. The funding will be used to increase capacity within the service; improve information sharing with the prison on offender risks, needs and motivation, enhance engagement with offenders whilst in custody; co-ordinate the involvement of other agencies; and intensify support on release. The pilot will be evaluated and will inform longer-term developments in through care.

The Committee is asked to note the above position.

At a MEETING of the **CASES SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE** held at Dundee on 1st May 2012.

Present:-

Councillor Jim BARRIE
Baillie Helen WRIGHT
Councillor Donald HAY

Councillor Jim BARRIE, Convener, in the Chair.

Unless marked thus * all items stand delegated.

The Sub-Committee resolved under Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the undernoted item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 7A of the Act.

I **PURCHASE OF PLACEMENT WHICH EXCEEDS THE APPROVED NATIONAL CARE HOME RATE**

There was submitted Report No 178-2012 by the Director of Social Work requesting approval of funding for services required to support one service user at a purpose-built care facility. The nature of the facility and the care provision required was detailed within the report.

The Sub-Committee agreed that a placement be funded for the service user on a permanent basis at the facility which was required to manage the service users longer term needs.

Jim BARRIE, Convener.

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 25TH JUNE 2012

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT ON: ROSEBANK CARE HOME CLOSURE/ REPROVISIONING

REPORT NO: 238 - 2012

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To appraise Social Work and Health Committee of the reprovisioning arrangements for Rosebank residents following the submission of Committee Report 449-2011.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:-

- 2.1 note the outcome of the reprovisioning of care and support arrangements for the residents of Rosebank Care Home as a consequence of Four Seasons Health Cares discussion to close the home.
- 2.2 note the positive outcomes for people who have moved from Rosebank to more personalised circumstances.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The current projections for the full reprovisioning of service users indicate additional costs of £244,549 in a full financial year. The increase is due to the cost of more personalised supports, such as a Care at Home/ Housing Support packages, costing around 3 times a residential/nursing placement. However, through using a number of available voids within existing services the additional estimated cost of resettlement is less than the £500,000 originally anticipated. These voids however cannot now be used for "new" service users therefore this will increase the financial pressure around adult services.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 Committee report 449-2011 advised the Social Work and Health Committee on 26th September 2011 of the implications of Four Seasons Healthcare's decision to Close Rosebank Care Home. The anticipated date for the closure was the end of March 2012 subject to appropriate alternative support arrangements being in place. In March 2012 the closure date was extended to the end of May 2012 due to the complexity and range of personalised arrangements for individuals.
- 4.1.2 At the outset of the closure process the team at Rosebank Care Home were providing care for 32 adults who have a learning disability, 29 of whom are the responsibility of Dundee City Council. Of these 29 residents, 10 are older people. It had been acknowledged for some time that the model of care provided at Rosebank was no longer compatible with national and local policy regarding supports for people with a learning disability.
- 4.1.3 Report 449-2011 anticipated that for some people suitably personalised alternative care arrangements would exceed the cost of care at Rosebank and it was estimated that the additional annual ongoing costs would be in the region of £500,000. This was based on the

recent experience of service re-provisioning following the closure of Camperdown nursing home. The minimum additional cost to Dundee City Council in the financial year 2011-2012 was expected to be £104,000 and it was agreed that this would be funded from the Council's general contingency fund.

4.2 Care and Support Needs Identified

4.2.1 Care Management representatives, along with a range of other professionals have been involved with individuals and their families/ representatives to identify more personalised care and support arrangements. The process of change has been led by means of a multi-disciplinary Co-ordinating Group.

The assessed needs of individuals can be summarised as follows:

Assessed service provision required	No. of service users
Care at Home/Housing Support either in small group living or individual tenancies - new service provision (DCC)	8
Care at Home/Housing Support either in small group living or individual tenancies - new service provision (external provider)	3
Care at Home/Housing Support either in small group living or individual tenancies - fill existing voids in current provision)	7
Care Home placements - Private and Voluntary sector residential care home for people with learning disabilities	1
Care Home placements - Dundee City Council Care Home for Older People	1
Care Home placements - standard nursing home rate payable	7
Care Home placement - enhanced nursing home rate payable	2
Total	29

4.3 Housing Support / Care at Home

4.3.1 The Co-ordinating Group benefited from the involvement of a representative of the Housing Department, who led the communication in terms of Housing opportunities both within the Council and via Housing Associations. The Housing Department identified 3 properties as part of the change process and 2 of these were deemed suitable for 6 individuals from Rosebank. Two of the properties have been granted HMO status during March 2012, with a significant amount of effort being required to meet the very tight timescale.

4.3.2 A number of voids which arose in other Care at Home/ Housing Support services already commissioned by the Learning Disability Service since the announcement of the closure were also identified as suitable for some of the individuals. This has had the effect of minimising the overall cost of the re-provisioning. This will, however, increase unmet need since service users will now not have access to these places.

4.3.3 Some individuals were identified as requiring support from other Care Home facilities either due to the effects of ageing or due to their specific complex needs.

4.4 Examples of Positive Outcomes

4.4.1 The following examples demonstrate some of the positive outcomes for individuals who have moved from Rosebank. All moves for the residents have so far been a success and for each individual more personalised outcomes are considered to have been achieved.

4.4.2 One individual had moved to Rosebank following a period at Strathmartine Hospital. The individual could be withdrawn, with limited engagement with others and it appeared there had been difficulty in encouraging them to leave Rosebank for any purpose. Following support being offered to the individual they moved in March this year to their own home which they share with other people. The individuals family feel that they have flourished since moving to their own home and they note a significant change in the individual, who is now communicating more effectively and interacting positively with the people in their life.

The individual is enjoying walks in the town, has joined local social activities, above all, is benefiting from meaningful contact with a range of other people.

4.4.3 Another individual had lived for years at Strathmartine Hospital since childhood. Following a brief community placement, the individual moved to Rosebank as this was felt to be appropriate given their complex nursing needs. For some time the individual had been expressing a wish to live in their own home and be supported to enjoy outdoor pursuits and activities within their community. The individual has recently moved to their own home where they can be supported to enjoy the lifestyle they choose. The individual has expressed their delight at this significant change in their life, since they moved into their home.

4.4.4 C was resettled from Strathmartine Hospital to Rosebank many years ago as a young adult, having lived at Strathmartine since childhood. C has a profound learning disability. C had no verbal communication and did not appear to indicate that they recognised anyone around. In March this year C moved to a placement in another part of Scotland to be closer to their family, whom they now visit on a weekly basis. Already C is interacting with others meaningfully and is more independent in terms of daily living activities. For what is believed to be the first time in their life, C has established a friendship with another person and is thriving in their new environment.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Equality and Diversity Rapid Impact Assessment.

7.2 Report 449-2011 'Closure of Rosebank Care Home' - 26 September 2011

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

DATE: 14th June 2012

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 25TH JUNE 2012

REPORT ON: STANDARD CHARGES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY RESIDENTIAL UNITS 2012-13

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 239 - 2012

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report recommends the level of standard charge to be applied in 2012-13 for local authority residential accommodation for adults and older people.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee agrees standard charges for local authority residential accommodation as laid out in Appendix 1.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The effect of the adoption of these recommended standard charges have been incorporated into the Social Work Department's Revenue Budget 2012-13.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 The local authority is required by statute to review its charges for residential accommodation for adults and older people each year. The method of calculating charges is prescribed by regulation and guidance and results in a full economic cost being calculated, including overheads and depreciation.

4.2 Each resident has a full assessment of their financial circumstances each year, which determines the amount they are required to contribute to the cost of their care. Only those residents with savings in excess of £24,750 or significant weekly income pay the full standard charge for their care. At present three residents pay the full standard charge. Every resident retains at least £23.50 per week in personal allowance.

4.3 Any placements made by other local authorities to these units will be charges at the fee rates noted in Appendix 1.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is available on the Council website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equandiv/equimpact/>

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Equality Impact Assessment.

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

Date: 14th June 2012

APPENDIX 1

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the following standard charges be applied from April 2012: -

	£ per week from April 2012	£ per week from April 2011
Residential Homes for Older People	843	843
Elmgrove House*	1,500	1,500
Whitetop Centre Respite Unit	2,760	2,760
Mackinnon Centre Respite Unit	n/a **	934

* Service users currently decanted to alternative provision in Strathcarron House due to redevelopment of Elmgrove

** Mackinnon Centre closed for refurbishment during 2012/13 with alternative respite arrangements to be made on an individually commissioned basis.

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 25TH JUNE 2012

REPORT ON: OPTIONS APPRAISAL - ELMS SECURE UNIT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 241 - 2012

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report for the Elms Secure Services outlines the background, history and drivers culminating in this Options Appraisal report. The Options Appraisal report (attached) details three options and then seeks agreement to the preferred option.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the Options Appraisal report (Appendix 1)
- 2.2 Agree its contents and the preferred option as outlined in the report to change the use of the secure unit and use alternative secure care providers and create further intake provision to operate alongside Drummond House which is part of the Elms Complex. This new resource having a specialised multi agency approach.
- 2.3 Agree that the Director of Social Work will bring forward a further report outlining the way forward for the preferred option
- 2.4 Agree the phased change of use of the Secure Unit at the Elms over the next six months

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct and immediate financial implications from the approval of this report. However, it is anticipated that more effective and efficient use of resources will result from both the use of external secure care providers and the expansion of further intake provision.
- 3.2 The Council has approved capital expenditure of £0.5m in 2012/13 within the current approved Capital Plan.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 The building is comprised of two distinct but adjoined wings providing distinct services. The non secure wing, Drummond House, provides emergency intake accommodation for 5 young people and would continue to be operated by Dundee City Council staff for this purpose
- 4.2 Since June 2000, Dundee has operated it's own Secure Unit for children requiring secure care as outlined in the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995. This service is licensed by the Scottish Government and can detain children for up to a period of three months
- 4.3 During the last 12 years the service has been included in the Scottish Secure Estate and has at times taken children from other Authorities. There is only one other Local Authority provider of secure care in Scotland, the other three are independent providers

- 4.4 The service seeks to keep children safe from harm and provide good care, helping them to understand the significant risks they were taking prior to their admission. In providing a nurturing environment it is hoped that we are able to address individual needs through universal and specialist services
- 4.5 The unit provides education on site. It is a regulated service that is inspected every year
- 4.6 The unit is built on a small scale which means it does not have the full facilities of larger units; this smaller more nurturing environment has proved positive for a specific type of child and has therefore been under used at times given the complex issues of the children whose needs are best met in such an environment. It can therefore only serve a specific minority of children who have required secure care. We have cared for specific children, sometimes in singleton placements within the unit and, while this has been for the right reasons, this has meant a reduction in our overall capacity and we have had to move other children outwith their communities to external provision
- 4.7 The building itself has undergone significant repairs and maintenance to keep up to National Care Home Standards
- 4.8 The last few years have brought significant changes, not only in the provision of service but in the national picture of secure care. The introduction of the Intensive Support and Monitoring Services (ISMS) and specialist fostering resources has reduced the number of children requiring secure care, although the trend remains variable. The belief that more community based "wraparound" packages are more effective for some children has also meant an increase in community resources.
- 4.9 Three significant developments or drivers over the last few years coupled with changing trends and the ongoing difficulties have led to this Options Appraisal report:
- 4.9.1 The first major initiative was the National Residential Child Care Initiative - this initiative launched by the Scottish Government instructed a group to look at Secure Care. The group headed as SOFI (Securing our Future Initiative) made a number of recommendations
- Early and effective intervention
 - Commissioning
 - Care planning and transitions
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Targeted reduction in the Secure Estate
 - Mental health
 - Vulnerable young offenders continuum of care
- It's overall vision was that in the future no child would be in secure care but in the meantime secure care would only be seen as part of a planned journey with re-integration as it's goal
- 4.9.2 The second major driver was the development and implementation of the national contract and governance framework for secure care. This led, as per the recommendations in the SOFI report to the reduction of capacity within the estate and set the fees for secure care. Through this process it became clear that Dundee, as a smaller service provider was not as financially viable as the larger independent providers. We realise that financially and due to under capacity at times, that it is difficult to compete in this market
- 4.9.3 The third major development was the Audit Scotland report "Getting It Right for Children in Residential Care". It challenged Local Authorities to have clear plans and strategies for looking after children, which had to be supported by reliable information systems. It also challenged the poor long term outcomes for our looked after children who experience residential care. Our information systems on analysis would concur with the poor outcomes for some of the young people accommodated in external provision
- 4.10 It was within this background and context the options appraisal was written, and the preferred option identified. We want to change the remit of the service provided from this residential unit and would want to develop a multi-agency approach/response to children

who place themselves at risk. This preferred option is detailed and is the subject of a further report for approval. This option seeks to maintain our provision to buy the secure service externally if required by any young person who meets secure care criteria.

- 4.11 This option recommends the phased change of use of the secure unit over a six month period and the withdrawal from the Secure Estate for Scotland.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Options Appraisal Report dated 2011

Mr A G Baird
Director of Social Work

DATE: 14th June 2012

OPTION APPRAISAL - The Elms - Secure Unit

THE PROJECT'S STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Elms was built between February 1999 and June 2000. The building was designed in accordance with the draft guidelines 'Secure '2000" and with the knowledge and experience available at the time.

The primary task of the Secure Unit is to provide a supportive environment which gives order and control to young people who are placing themselves (and in some cases, other people) at risk. For a young person to be admitted to secure care they have to meet the criteria set out in section 70(10) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. There are several ways a child can be admitted to Secure Care - either through a Children's Hearing, a Court (provision being under the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, or on the authority of the Chief Social Work Officer and the Head of the Secure establishment. However, there is guidance in place which states clearly that 'secure placements once made should only be for so long as it is in the best interests of the child'.

The Elms Secure Unit is part of the Secure Estate for Scotland and designated as a national resource. Only 13% of the Secure Estate in Scotland is owned and managed by Local Authorities. The 4 beds in the secure unit are licensed by the Scottish Government and can keep young people detained for up to three months. The Secure Unit offers on site education for young people who are detained.

An option appraisal completed on the adjoining section of the Elms building and reported to the Social Work & Health Committee in December 2010 stated that the Secure Unit would be investigated in conjunction with Education, the reconfiguration of the Intensive Support and Monitoring Service (ISMS) and the Best Value review of Residential schools.

Adolescent services in the Social Work Department were recently redesigned as set out in report 78-2011, following approval at the Policy & Resources Committee on 10 February 2011. A specific Adolescent Team has been established to make best use of professional resources, increase the overall resilience of services and enable a consistent focus on adolescents who experience or present high levels of risk by virtue of their exposure to or involvement in risk taking or offending behaviour.

Since the earlier option appraisal on the Elms, a National Secure Care Contract has been developed by Scotland Excel, all local authorities, and the providers. It is a framework agreement that includes the following providers: Rossie Secure Accommodation Services (18 places); St Mary's Kenmure (24 places); Good Shepherd Centre (18 places); and Kibble (18 places). The two local authority providers forming part of the Secure Estate (the Elms and Edinburgh Secure Services) are not included in the National Contract.

The main reasons for implementing the National Secure Care Contract were enabling the standardizing of terms & conditions, and for the sector to agree costs on a national basis. An outcome of the contract for Dundee City Council is a reduction in the daily rate charged by Rossie Secure Accommodation Services

THE NEED FOR AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The number of looked after children in Dundee has continued to rise resulting in continued pressure on city based placements and increasing use of out of city placements.

The demand for secure care had fallen on average over the last 3 years due to the use of alternatives to secure care such as specialist fostering resources, the use of ISMS, and the increase in the range of community resources. Demand is however subject to fluctuations and the number of young people requiring secure care has increased recently. The changes in the private market in terms of residential care and the growth of "crisis" type provision have also had an impact. This trend in Dundee is indicative of the national picture.

The Unit Manager post for the Elms has traditionally been difficult to recruit to given the specialised nature of the service in the secure unit. The economies of scale of a comparatively small unit in comparison to other secure establishments nationally, seems to present recruitment and retention difficulties for an appropriate Unit Manager. Managing a staff team and getting the balance right between care and punishment has always been a difficult task and requires a specialised staff team.

Whilst the demand for secure care provision fluctuates by nature and is reducing in general, the demand for ordinary and emergency residential care is in constant demand. This is borne out by the other residential units for young people within the city being continually at capacity and an ever increasing trend in the number of external placements being purchased from external providers.

The current model of service delivery needs to be reviewed in light of these findings, to ensure that the current service model is both responsive to the service demands and continues to meet objectives in a cost effective manner. It also has to take cognisance of the recent reports and publications on the commissioning of residential care for young people.

OPTIONS

1. Continue with the current model

Assessment - Not feasible

This is becoming an under-utilised resource as the trends change and the numbers of children requiring secure care is falling. The unit does not offer the range of facilities offered by the larger secure units and it has become an excellent resource for a very small group of children with specific needs. We will take young people from other Local Authorities if we can meet their needs. This provision is financed by these other authorities. Due to it's evolving limitations it is not cost effective and has led to young people from Dundee requiring a less specialised service, and having to be located out with the area since general resources are at capacity level.

2. Change the use of the secure unit and use alternative secure providers, create further intake provision to operate alongside Drummond House. This new resource having a specialised multi agency approach.

Assessment - Feasible

Flexibility and control of 4 secure beds would be lost along with the benefits of keeping young people in their own communities, which is in the longer term better child care practice and more cost effective.

The creation of a further 4 person unit with an intake capacity would allow for the expansion of current provision and also allow the development of a multidisciplinary and intensive support service to work with the aim of preventing the secure admission for children who are placing themselves at risk. The partners would include Education, NHS, Community Adolescent Team, Throughcare and Aftercare team and the Voluntary sector partners.

3. Contract with an external care provider to lease the building and manage the service.

Assessment - Not feasible

The building is comprised of two distinct but adjoined wings providing distinct services. The non secure wing, Drummond House, provides emergency intake accommodation for 5 young people and would continue to be operated by Dundee City Council staff for this purpose. Managing distinct services in a co-joined building may present operational difficulties for both parties.

Management of the secure resource by an external provider would result in children from out with the area being accommodated. There would be no control over admissions and discharges.

IMPACT STATEMENT

Objectives	Options		
	1	2	3
Deliver services which continue to improve and meet National Standards for Care and enable full utilisation of resources.	x	√	√
Achieve best value and best practice in managing our people and resources.	√	√	x
Develop a multidisciplinary and intensive support service.	x	√	x
Ensure that professional resources are available to deliver a revised model of service.	x	√	x
To achieve a cost effective option.	x	√	√

IDENTIFY THE CHOSEN OPTION AND PRESENT THE RESULTS

The preferred option for the Council is Option 2 - to change the use of the secure unit and use alternative secure providers and create further intake provision. A future strategy for accommodated children should be a priority through our integrated planning process. The GIRFEC agenda requires us to work collaboratively with all services that children will require to grow and develop successfully. This strategy should be based on a comparative study of commissioning and in house investment. At present although a current rise in secure care demand has been experienced, this does fluctuate and trends over the years have proven that. There is always a constant crisis in terms of the provision of resources that can offer an emergency response to a child experiencing distress which can often result in them placing themselves at the cusp of meeting secure criteria. These children are usually older and outwith the control of their parents. The most recent reports show that outcomes for children looked after away from home are the poorest and many children who have been placed in secure care return to their communities for a short period of time before meeting secure criteria again. Trying to prevent children going to secure care in the first place and then stopping them returning may prove more effective and may improve their life chances in their own communities.

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 25TH JUNE 2012
REPORT ON: RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELMS SECURE RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK
REPORT NO: 240 - 2012

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report outlines the proposal to design a new service which is committed to strengthening our work with young people in collaboration with our partner agencies and departments. This report details the proposed actions and planning to progress the preferred option in committee report number 241 - 2012.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee is asked to approve the following recommendations:

- 2.1 That the Director of Social work sets up a Multi-Agency Development Group to progress the development of a new service from the Elms Residential Unit. This will be led by the Head of Children's Services.
- 2.2 That this group will report back to Committee by November 2012 with the detailed proposals for a new service and an implementation plan.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The development of a new service will be met from the existing Social Work budget.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 The re-development for the four bedded unit at the Elms looks at a service which enhances the current residential services at the Elms but provides a more multi-agency and intensive response to children in crisis who may be considered as being at risk within their own communities. The aim being to prevent these children requiring secure care or to prevent a re-admission to secure care. It may also consider returning children to Dundee from residential schools where their transition needs can be better met within their own communities.
- 4.2 The planning for such a service will be multi-agency in keeping with the spirit of Integrated Children's Services and the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators. The overall aim of such a service will be to improve, through effective collaborative outcomes for young people.
- 4.3 The group will be chaired by the Head of Children's Services to establish the future role and function of the unit in conjunction with all the services involved with children. This will include:
- Social Work - Adolescent Team, Intensive Support and Monitoring Services (ISMS), localities and residential
 - Police
 - Health - including LAAC Nursing and CAMHS
 - Education - including DEPS
 - Advocates for young people

- Any commissioned Voluntary Agencies

The group will look at the current profile of young people in Dundee who are looked after, and looked after and accommodated. We need to look at creative solutions and what works for these young people who place themselves at risk over a significant period of time, through drug misuse, absconding, exposure to sexual risks, and who become or are involved in offending behaviour. The young people who are involved in these activities are young people who usually have very complex needs, and whose behaviour is more difficult to manage.

4.4 The group will take cognisance of the following reports:

- Getting it Right for Children in Residential Care - Audit Scotland (September 2010)
- Extraordinary Lives (Scottish Government) (2006)
- We Can and Must Do Better (January 2007)
- NRCCI - National Residential Child Care Initiative (November 2009)
- Cel 16 - NHS (2009)
- The Fatal Accident Inquiry Report on children resident at the Good Shepherd Residential Unit (May 2012)
- The most recent internal review of children who are accommodated in secure care (March 2012)

4.5 This development has to fit with the other resources for adolescents including specialist Adolescent Services, ISMS, ACE and the current review of specialist fostering as well as any specialist educational resources and CAMHS development. This service should also be considered in terms of current commissioned services.

4.6 In terms of ongoing consultations these will take place with the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Government.

4.7 The proposal will seek consultation with local residents' groups in terms of a change of use for the building within the community.

4.8 The training, and more effective use of multi-agency staff will be considered throughout the process and a training plan and structure will also be developed, suited to the service delivery model chosen.

4.9 The proposed change in remit to the service will have implications for the building having to be changed from its current use, to make it fit for purpose. The necessary planning for this will be included in all consultations and development plans.

4.10 The working group must agree and establish measurable outcomes for all young people using the service.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

DATE: 14th June 2012

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 25TH JUNE 2012

REPORT ON: FISCAL WORK ORDERS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 242 - 2012

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on progress in implementing Fiscal Work Orders.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:

2.1 Note progress made in the implementation of Fiscal Work Orders and ongoing measures being taken with the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service.

2.2 Instruct the Director of Social Work to provide a further review of progress in 12 months.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Scottish Government has provided £50,000 additional funding in 2011/12 and 2012/13 for the implementation of Fiscal Work Orders.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 Members are reminded that the Fiscal Work Order was introduced as an alternative to formal prosecution for first time and/or low tariff offenders aged 16 years and over. Instead of being issued with a Fiscal Fine or prosecuted in Court, offenders are provided with an opportunity to carry out unpaid work for between 10 and 50 hours to be completed within 6 months. An evaluation of the 4 initial pilot sites in Hamilton, Livingstone, Dumbarton and Inverness concluded the Order offers a fair, efficient and effective disposal, especially for those who had limited means to pay fines. It was shown that the Order can benefit both the individual offender and the community.

4.2 The initial evaluation also indicated that, despite its clear potential as a flexible, low cost option, the respective targets for the number of offenders starting an Order was not met in the pilot sites. It concluded that this was due to a combination of reasons including offenders failing to attend assessment, refusing the formal offer during an assessment and/or were assessed as unable to carry out unpaid work due to health issues. On this basis, the evaluation recommended that almost twice as many referrals were necessary in order to achieve the target for the number of starts and achieve best value.

4.3 Developments

In Dundee, like the initial pilot sites, the Order has been piloted as a partnership between the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) and Criminal Justice Services. An additional £50,000 funding was provided by the Government to increase capacity and meet anticipated levels of demand. A first year target of 100 offenders starting work was established based on demographics and crime trends. Based on the initial evaluation, it was agreed that COPFS would screen cases and aim to refer around 200 offenders to Criminal Justice Services for assessment. The assessment would then focus on whether the offender was both able and willing to carry out unpaid work.

4.4 Following initial consultation in respect of targets, criteria and referral processes, the Order has been available since May 2011. Since then, COPFS has made a total of 37 referrals, consisting of 26 males and 11 females, 4 of which were young people aged 16-17 years. The offences were predominantly minor theft, vandalism and breaches of the peace and there were also 3 cases involving minor assaults. The average length of an Order has been 28 hours. In all cases, assessments have been carried out to determine suitability within the same week and outcomes have been as follows:

- 14 were able and willing to participate in the Order
- 3 are awaiting assessment
- 6 did not meet the criteria
- 10 failed to attend an assessment
- 2 were assessed as unsuitable due to significant health conditions
- 2 refused to participate in unpaid work and elected prosecution

4.5 Of these, 38% therefore resulted in offenders starting an Order. Of those starting, 7 offenders have successfully completed and 7 offenders continue to carry out unpaid work. Over 30% of referrals were for women and 11% were for young people. In order to avoid negative influences, individuals were not placed on projects carried out by more persistent and/or serious offenders subject to a Court Order. Instead, projects have largely been carried out on an individual basis and have included furniture re-cycling, youth sports programmes, work in a charity shop, work in a day care centre and work at a tourist attraction. A total of 234 hours in unpaid work have been completed.

4.6 Each project has also been evaluated in terms of the views of placement providers, whose feedback has been positive. Comments include reference to the provider believing the offender has learned their lesson as a result of the unpaid work, the offender bringing personal experience which benefited young people and the offender being welcome back to the placement any time. It therefore appears clear that, where an offender starts an Order, there is a likelihood of them completing it to the benefit of the community. Where they have not started or failed to attend after starting, COPFS has been informed for formal prosecution to be considered.

4.7 When comparing implementation in Dundee with evaluation of the initial pilot sites, a higher proportion of referrals have been on women and young people and a broader range of hours have been offered. In all areas, the Order has demonstrated the potential to be an efficient and effective alternative to a Fiscal Fine and formal prosecution for first time and/or low tariff offenders.

4.8 **Summary and Next Steps**

In Dundee, the first year of implementation has illustrated the potential benefits of Fiscal Work Orders. Continued funding has been provided by the Government in 2012-13 and the Criminal Justice Service continues to work with COPFS to increase the number of referrals to the scheme. It has been agreed that cases meeting the criteria will be jointly screened and referred for assessment on a weekly basis. It is anticipated that this will increase the number of offenders starting an Order and the number of unpaid work hours completed. Crucially, it should also promote best value.

5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Committee Report Number 240-2011 Fiscal Work Order Pilot

Equality Impact Assessment

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

DATE: 14th June 2012

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 25TH JUNE 2012

REPORT ON: COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDERS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 243 -2012

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update on the operation of Community Payback Orders, in accordance with the requirements of the Criminal Justice and Licensing Act (Scotland) 2010. The Act imposes a duty on local authorities to submit annual reports on the Order and this is the first such report since the legislation was enacted in February 2011. A previous report outlined the implications of the Act and measures being put in place to implement it effectively.

1.2 The Act replaced existing community sentences with a single Order and was intended to simplify sentencing options, provide a robust alternative to short-term imprisonment, reduce re-offending, promote community consultation on unpaid work projects and increase community confidence in the criminal justice system, particularly in respect of offender management.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:

2.1 Note progress made in the implementation and operation of Community Payback Orders.

2.2 Instruct the Director of Social Work to provide a further report in 12 months.

2.3 Instruct the Director of Social Work to provide a report on Women Offenders in August 2012.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 The Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 was implemented in February 2011 to deliver credible, visible and effective community sentencing as an alternative to short-term imprisonment. The Act includes a presumption against prison sentences of 3 months or less and replaces separate Probation, Community Service and Supervised Attendance Orders with the single community sentence of a Community Payback Order.

A Community Payback Order can contain up to 9 conditions, including supervision, substance misuse treatment and unpaid work. It was implemented alongside revised National Outcomes and Standards for Criminal Justice Social Work, which introduced new requirements on timescales for the commencement and completion of community sentences and the supervision of offenders in accordance with levels of risk and need.

4.2 In Dundee, based on short-term custodial sentencing trends and the intention to replace short-term imprisonment with community based alternatives, it was anticipated that the Act had the potential to result in a 30% increase in Orders. The Service also wanted to ensure

services for women offenders were seen as credible alternatives and to improve overall performance in respect of the commencement and completion of sentences.

4.3 **Developments**

In the last 12 months, the number of Community Payback Orders imposed by the Court has gradually increased by around 33%. However, contrary to expectations, this has largely involved an increase in cases requiring statutory supervision with only a small increase in the numbers of offenders required to undertake unpaid work. A total of 389 Orders were imposed, with 139 of these having a condition of unpaid work. The focus of the Service has been on improving immediacy and speed and overall there have been improvements in performance as follows:

- 90% of offenders attend their first appointment within 1 working day of sentence compared with 73% last year
- 64% of offenders commencing their work placement within 7 days of sentence compared with 60% last year
- 10 hours on average worked each week by each offender subject to unpaid work compared with 5 hours a week last year
- 65% of offenders successfully completing their unpaid work requirement compared with 59% last year
- 52% of offenders successfully completing a supervision requirement compared with 51% last year
- 59% of young offenders successfully completing a CPO compared with 53% completing the equivalent Order last year
- 128 unpaid work projects started and completed compared with 93 started and completed last year

4.4 Where offenders have not attended their first appointment or started work within required timescales, enforcement procedures have been followed. Liaison with all 8 Local Community Planning Partnerships has increased unpaid work referrals markedly and a total of 33,233 hours, the equivalent of 898 weeks, of unpaid work was completed across the City. The type of projects included garden restoration, graffiti removal, a laundry service re-circulating children's clothes and individual placements with local charities. Projects frequently involved supporting vulnerable people with basic garden maintenance. Invariably, this work has been well received by the local community.

4.5 Offenders subject to unpaid work have also been required to undertake other activities, which can consist of up to 30% of the work as an aid to addressing risks and needs. The Service works in partnership with Apex to improve employability prospects and a number of offenders have progressed into positive destinations in terms of college, paid work or voluntary activities. The Service also works with services such as Venture Trust and Princes Trust Fairbridge to improve the support offered to young offenders aged 16-17.

4.6 In terms of women offenders, a new team comprising social work and health has been established focusing specifically on women. The team is currently piloting a new Risks and Needs Assessment tool to assist identification of distinct gender based needs and deliver suitably tailored support. The NHS Nurse seconded to the team conducts assessments, operates a weekly clinic and liaises with health specialists. In addition, mentoring services are delivered in partnership with Tayside Council on Alcohol. The team was recently commended in a report of the Women Offender's Commission and a more detailed report on this will be presented to the Social Work and Health Committee in August 2012.

4.7 In terms of drugs and alcohol, there has been a 10% increase in Orders with a substance misuse treatment requirement, from 90 to 100. In partnership with NHS, work is ongoing to integrate the health assessment and treatment pathways in order to ensure speedy access to substance misuse assessment and treatment.

4.8 There has also been a focus on increasing voluntary resettlement for short-term prisoners in order to reduce repeat offending and repeat custody. This involves attempting to engage with offenders whilst in prison in order to encourage them to avail themselves of support both in the prison and on release. Over the year, there has been an 11% overall increase in those prepared to engage, from 92 to 104. This represents around one third of

those released from short-term imprisonment. There have been particular increases in the number of both young people aged 16-17 years and women prepared to engage.

4.9 In order to develop this further, the service is implementing a new 7 stage resettlement pilot with HMP Perth for adult males and with HMP Edinburgh and HMP Cornton Vale with adult females.

4.10 **Summary and Next Steps**

In Dundee, the Community Payback Order has been implemented effectively. The anticipated higher levels of demand have been realised and the service has supervised and supported a higher number of offenders subject to not only the CPO but also to Drug Treatment and Testing Orders and Voluntary Resettlement. There has been a significant increase in the number of unpaid work projects completed to the benefit of both offenders and the community as a whole. Significantly higher proportions of adult males, adult females and young people have successfully completed their Order. This has been achieved despite overall reductions in resources.

4.11 Over the next 12 months, ongoing priorities include working with the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) to increase referrals to formal diversion schemes as an alternative to prosecution for appropriate offenders; working with the Court to promote the credibility and effectiveness of community based alternatives to short-term imprisonment; working with the NHS to fully implement a single substance misuse care pathway for all offenders; and working with the Scottish Prison Service to implement the Voluntary Resettlement pilots.

4.12 A bid has been submitted to the Tayside Community Justice Authority to provide funding to improve sports facilities. If the bid is successful, the service will also coordinate significant unpaid work projects at the Riverside Sports Pavilion, Craigie Community Sports Hub, Charlotte Street Pavilion and Whitton Park Pavilion in 2012-13.

5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>.

6.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in preparation of this report.

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Committee Report Number 27-2011 Criminal Justice Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010.

Equality Impact Assessment

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

DATE: 14th June 2012

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 25TH JUNE 2012

REPORT ON: WHOLE SYSTEM APPROACH TO YOUTH JUSTICE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 244 - 2012

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on progress made in implementing the Whole System Approach to Youth Justice over the last 12 months. A previous report was submitted which outlined the approach and an associated Programme Plan (Committee Report Number 284-2011). An update report was requested.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:

- 2.1 Note the progress made in implementing the Whole System Approach in the first year of operation.
- 2.2 Instruct the Director of Social Work to provide a further review of the approach in 12 months.
- 2.3 Instruct the Director of Social Work to implement a plan to reduce the number of children and young people admitted to secure care and custody

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 The Whole System Approach

Members are reminded that the Scottish Government Reducing Re-offending Programme aims to reduce re-offending and enhance public safety as well as reduce the prison population. An accompanying document on Preventing Offending by Young People provides guidance on children and young people aged 8 to 17 years. It promotes a staged framework to address youth crime, where young offenders are given timely, graduated, relevant and proportionate support at all stages of both the child and adult justice systems. There is an emphasis on identifying matters early and delivering support before patterns of offending behaviour become established. The framework consists of the following areas;

- Early and effective intervention
- Diversion from prosecution
- Community alternatives to secure care and custody
- Risk assessment and risk management
- Court processes
- Throughcare

- 4.2 As such, the approach is consistent with both Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) on preventative, holistic interventions with children and young people and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) on the limited use of custody. Research

indicates that community based, tailored support is more effective in reducing re-offending than unstructured support or restrictive measures alone, such as imprisonment. The approach also aims to reduce time and cost through the increased use of informal, voluntary measures before more expensive statutory measures at later stages of both systems are considered necessary.

4.3 **Progress in Dundee**

In the last 12 months, as part of Integrated Children's Services, the multi-agency Youth Justice Partnership has continued to co-ordinate services for all children and young people aged 8 to 17 years who offend. It was noted in the last report that there had been sustained success in reducing youth crime, including a 15% reduction in the number of offences committed by young offenders and a 30% reduction in the number of persistent young offenders in the preceding 12 months. The Partnership has sought to maintain the arrangements which contributed to these successes whilst focusing in particular on extending effective practice to older adolescents aged 16-17 years. To date, progress has included:

4.3.1 **Early and effective intervention** – following agreement with Tayside Police and the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS), a multi-agency forum has extended its remit to include 16-17 year olds. Instead of immediate Police referral to COPFS, first time offenders with a low tariff offence in this age group are now referred to a weekly screening and support group, where their risks, needs and levels of required support are considered. To date, 25 in the age group have been referred and in 13 cases a Police Warning was considered to be a sufficient deterrent to re-offending. The remaining 12 were provided with informal, voluntary support from external agencies to address concerns. To increase referral numbers, Tayside Police have issued internal guidance stipulating automatic referrals for offenders meeting the criteria.

4.3.2 **Diversion from prosecution** - once referred by the Police to COPFS because the frequency or seriousness of the offending has escalated, there is a further opportunity to address matters but avoid prosecution through the use of formal diversion schemes. The criteria, referral, assessment and enforcement processes for SACRO and Youth Justice Team diversion schemes have therefore been standardised and the Criminal Justice Service has piloted a Fiscal Work Order. In the last 12 months, a total of 26 young people aged 16-17 years have been formally diverted from prosecution. Of these, 18 were referred to SACRO, 4 to the Youth Justice Team and 4 to Fiscal Work Orders. It represents a 20% increase from the previous year and work with COPFS is ongoing to ensure appropriate targeting.

4.3.3 **Community alternatives to secure care and custody** – in respect of secure care, a short life working group will consider if we have the correct range of resources to respond to the accommodation needs of young people at greatest risk from their own offending or risk taking behaviour. This will include an evaluation of The Elms Secure Unit. In the last year 17 young people were admitted to secure care against 16 in the previous year. This is a key priority and the aim is to ensure support is targeted early enough before risks escalate further, when only a secure placement can be justified to protect the child and/or community from harm.

In respect of custody, the Community Payback Order has been implemented as a sentencing option for both young and adult offenders in Court. The legislation stipulates that where any CPO requirement, such as unpaid work, is imposed on a 16-17 year old, it must also be imposed alongside a supervision requirement to provide additional support. All cases except a small minority already subject to a Children's Hearing supervision requirement are therefore now supervised by the Criminal Justice Service and a range of new interventions, including Venture Trust, Fairbridge and Tayside Council on Alcohol Mentoring, have been developed.

When comparing the 10 months before the CPO was introduced with the 10 months after, 59 Orders with an element of supervision were imposed against 53. This indicates that the earlier interventions for the age group are beginning to prove effective in reducing the number of young offenders requiring statutory support. In the same periods, the proportion of successfully completed Orders has increased from 51% to 57%. This indicates that the

new interventions are proving effective in promoting offender engagement and compliance. A total of 1,193 hours in unpaid work were completed by the age group in the last 12 months, compared with 1,118 in the year before. Projects have included garden maintenance, graffiti removal, restoration of local common ground and repairing park benches. It appears clear that 16-17 year old offenders have visibly paid back to the community.

There were 18 custodial sentences compared with 16 last year and analysis suggests this was due to offence seriousness, typically involving offences of violence. A total of 9 of the custodial sentences were for 18 months or more.

- 4.3.4 **Secure care and custody reintegration** – all young people placed in secure accommodation are supported through Care Planning. Young people placed in secure accommodation under Children's Hearing statutes are able to work through a system of earned privileges, based on positive behaviour, leading to planned home leaves, which help acclimatise the young person to a return to their home community. All returns are informed by Looked After and Accommodated Children's Reviews, where the supports necessary for a return to the community are identified and agreed. This can include intensive support from the Intensive Support and Monitoring Service and provision of the most appropriate educational resource, with young people returning from secure being an agreed priority for the extra support provided by the Offsite Educational Service.

In respect of custody, in partnership with the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) the resettlement of 16-17 year olds has been prioritised and new national guidance, which extends practice for younger children in secure care, has been implemented. The Criminal Justice Social Work Court Report is now forwarded to HMP Polmont when any 16-17 year old receives a custodial sentence, a Social Worker is immediately allocated the case, a prison planning meeting is held within 5 days, case reviews are held on a monthly basis, a pre-release plan approved at least 14 days before release and a minimum of weekly contact is offered to support a return to the community and minimise the risk of re-offending. In appropriate cases mentoring is offered.

There is a focus on avoiding secure care and custody where possible and on preventing repeat admissions and sentences for the same small group of children and young people.

- 4.3.5 **Risk assessment** – the standardised assessment of children and young people who offend is crucial in consistently determining types and levels of risk and need and informing relevant, proportionate responses. Offenders in both the Hearing and Court systems are therefore now assessed using ASSET, a tool designed specifically for offenders in this age group. Violent and sexual young offenders are respectively assessed using more specialist tools and frameworks. All children and young people subject to statutory supervision also have a single plan in accordance with GIRFEC.

4.4 **Summary and Next Steps**

Over the last 12 months, the Youth Justice Partnership has implemented almost every action of the Whole System Approach Programme Plan. This has resulted in a greater number of young people in the age group being dealt with at earlier stages of the system through approaches to early intervention and diversion; a smaller number are subject to statutory Court Orders; a greater number of those have engaged with and successfully completed Orders; a higher degree of support has been provided to those in secure care and custody; standardised assessments on the risk of re-offending and risk of harm have been developed; and single child's plans for young people who offend have been introduced. Whilst numbers at this early stage remain relatively small, multi-agency systems and processes have been developed and all partners are committed to building on early success. At the same time, there has been continued, further progress in youth crime as follows:

33% reduction in youth crime

45% reduction in the number of persistent young offenders

76% reduction in the number of serious offences committed by young people

The exception is the continued number of children and young people admitted to both secure care and custody. There is a clear need to review arrangements and ensure those at risk are identified and targeted with appropriate support before secure accommodation or imprisonment are considered to be the only necessary option. A new multi-agency group will regularly identify and screen such cases in order to determine whether current levels of support are sufficient. A dataset on the specific re-offending rates of both 8-15 year olds and 16-17 year olds is also in the process of being developed and commenced in December 2011.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted in preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Committee Report Number 284-2011 Whole System Approach to Youth Justice.

Equality Impact Assessment

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

DATE: 14th June 2012