

**REPORT TO: CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON
9 JUNE 2010**

SUBJECT: YOUTH JUSTICE

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Committee the 2009 Moray Youth Justice Report and the 2010-12 Plan.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section D(8) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the exercising of functions of the Council under the Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 1937.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee note and scrutinise the 2009 Moray Youth Justice Report and 2010-12 Moray Youth Justice Plan.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Services delivered under the banner of 'Moray Youth Justice' are delivered by a partnership of agencies locally including Moray Council, Grampian Police, Aberlour Trust, the Scottish Children's Reporters Administration and Children's Panel.
- 3.2 Moray Youth Justice has developed an accountability structure led by a multiagency Strategy Group that prepared the 2009-10 strategy document and commissioned the 2009 report from CTC Associates as external evaluators expert in the field. The annual report is incorporated into the 2010-12 Moray Youth Justice Plan that is available as **APPENDIX 1** to this report.
- 3.3 The annual report notes positive outcomes:-
- Youth crime continues to reduce in Moray and at a quicker rate than surrounding areas;
 - The Youth Justice Team can provide evidence that they continue to reduce the re-offending of the young people with whom they engage; and
 - The Moray Youth Justice Strategy and Moray Youth Justice Team have delivered very positive results to the local community.
- 3.4 CTC Associates found recommendations as priorities for action. These priorities are:-
- Improve the effectiveness of the Youth Justice Implementation Group;
 - Programmes should be developed to address:-
 - (i) Alcohol issues
 - (ii) Early intervention;
 - Develop an effective service for victims; and
 - Increase the use of restorative conferences.

- 3.5 The priorities have been incorporated into the seven Performance Improvement Objectives of the 2010-12 Plan. These objectives are:-
- Implement the Moray Youth Justice Transitions Project;
 - Implement the Support to Victims/ Public Confidence Project;
 - Develop a Performance Management Framework (PMF) linking the Strategy & Implementation Groups;
 - Complete the analysis of local practice with young people having harmful sexual behaviours and implement agreed recommendations;
 - Analyse current intervention and arrangements that address alcohol issues for young people who offend and implement agreed recommendations; and
 - Establish and implement a calendar of communication training and staff development activities for practitioners on an interagency basis (as a Practitioners Forum).

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan**

There is a clear coherence between the outcomes and strategy objectives of the Youth Justice Strategy to the draft 2010/11 Service Improvement Plan for the Community Services Departments in 'Improving Collaborative Working'.

Similarly there is coherence with National Outcome 9 of the Moray Single Outcome Agreement in that 'we live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.'

(b) **Policy and Legal**

There is a relationship between the Moray Youth Justice Strategy and responsibilities placed on the Council through the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

(c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

There are no financial, staffing or property implications for the Council arising directly from the report. The risk issues relate primarily to the impact of youth offending on local communities.

(d) **Consultations**

The Moray Youth Justice Strategy Group has been consulted in the preparation of this report. Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant and Alistair Stobie, Senior Solicitor and Katrina McGillivray, Senior Personnel Advisor have been consulted on relevant sections.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to note the positive impact reported for Moray Youth Justice in 2009 and the objectives to improve the service in 2010/12.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: HB776344