

Health & Social Care Integration

Briefing Paper on Delegated Functions – Criminal Justice Social Work

Current Arrangements

The CJSWS is a statutory service working with individuals who offend. Client group range is 16 plus.

The Executive Manager also holds responsibility for developing and managing the Appropriate Adult Scheme for individuals whose understanding is impaired through learning disability or mental health issues. The Social Work Standby Service and the Social Work Substance Misuse Service.

The service currently sits within the Community Health and Social Care Service and reports to the Social Services Committee and the Northern Community Justice Authority.

Criminal Justice annual budget of £330,820 is ring fenced and paid to the SIC by the NCJA. There are 7.25 FTE. Substance Misuse budget of £101,896 and 1 FTE social worker. £45,469 of the social worker's post is funded by the Shetland Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

Partnership Working

Due to the nature of offending behaviour the CJSWS currently works in close partnership with colleagues in adult social care, mental health and substance misuse services. In order to effectively plan and develop mainstream services for criminal justice it would be more influential for CJSWS to remain within the integrated partnership. Close working with the CSWO would remain as it is at present, to ensure the duties to deliver community based sentences are met.

Future Involvement in Integration

Community Justice is currently being redesigned by the Scottish Government and this will have some impact on the governance and strategic development of criminal justice services. The current consultation document focuses on the importance of Community Planning Partnerships and proposes that these Partnerships are responsible for the strategic planning and delivery of services.

If CJSWS are placed within an alternative service i.e. Children's Services where services are predominantly for children and not adults, then consideration will need to be given to ensuring structures are in place for the joint planning and delivery of services for offenders within the integrated partnership. Given Shetland's demographics this may result in duplication of work for the service.

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