

## SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

<b>Social Work Committee</b> <b>2nd June, 1998.</b>	<b>Subject : Scottish Office Consultation Document on Health and Social Work and Related Services for Mentally Disordered Offenders in Scotland</b>
<b>From :</b> <b>Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work</b> <b>Prepared by :</b> <b>Jim Scullion, Co-ordinator (Criminal Justice) and Tom Keenan, Health Social Work Manager</b>	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to:-

- Seek approval from the Social Work Committee to forward comments to the Scottish Office in relation to Health and Social Work and Related Services for Mentally Disordered Offenders in Scotland.

**2. BACKGROUND**

In 1992 the Department of Health published the "Review of Health and Social Services for Mentally Disordered Offenders and Others Requiring Similar Services" (The Reed Report) which related specifically to England and Wales. That report has been widely accepted and has become part of the culture and working practice in forensic psychiatry in Scotland at Clinical level. The objective of the Scottish Office Consultation Document is to arrive at agreed principles to meet the individual needs of mentally disordered offenders in Scotland.

The development of forensic services in the area of Greater Glasgow Health Board (GGHB) was reported to the Planning and Administration Sub Committee in November, 1997. It was agreed at that Committee that the Director of Social Work should pursue with Lanarkshire Health Board the development of forensic services in North Lanarkshire. This has been done with the Social Work Department having been assured that North Lanarkshire Council will be fully consulted through the Joint Planning process.

**3. CONTENTS OF THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

- The consultation paper proposes that mentally disordered offenders be cared for:
- With regard to quality of care and proper attention to the needs of individuals;
- As far as possible in the community, rather than in institutional settings;

- Under conditions of no greater security than is justified by the degree of danger they present to themselves or others;
- In such a way as to maximise rehabilitation and their chances of an independent life;
- As near as possible to their own homes or families, if they have them.

The consultation paper describes present arrangements within the Criminal Justice process, and makes proposals for service requirements of mentally disordered offenders. The paper also considers Health and Social Work Services and makes proposals for their development.

The overall objective is to promote the provision of a sufficient and effectively co-ordinated range of services to meet the individuals needs and the public interest. The public interest covers both the protection of the public and the most effective use of resources consistent with high standards of public safety.

The main theme throughout the paper is the need for multi-agency and multi-disciplinary working , involving, health, social work, housing , education and employment.

The report makes proposals relating to all aspects of working with Mentally Disordered Offenders, and breaks their comments down into sections covering the following;

#### THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

- Police procedures
- Multidisciplinary assessment and emergency services for the Courts
- Court Disposals
- Scottish Prison Service
- Service requirements in prison

#### PROVISION OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

- Future Health Service Provision
- The State Hospital
- The demand for high security
- Monitoring of high security patients
- Local Forensic Psychiatric Units
- Services for people with personality disorders.
- Operation of Intensive Psychiatric Care Units
- The General Psychiatric Service
- Community services including the GP
- Health Board Responsibilities for service development
- Staff Training

#### FUTURE SOCIAL CARE PROVISION

- Supervision and monitoring where this is needed for public safety
- The establishment of a local model comprising of a multi-agency group, comprising senior staff from the various agencies to set agreed targets and priorities.

## SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

- Future services for this client group
- Respective roles of agencies, ensuring a care plan which takes into consideration risk assessment.
- The role of service providers.

### 4. COMMENTS

The consultation document stresses the need for multi-disciplinary and multi-agency co-operation, liaison and planning, but more importantly, multi-agency responsibility.

It is important that the mentally disordered offender is offered consistency and continuity of care, co-ordinated across the agencies, and that there is recognition of the mental health status. This would ensure that the offender would be appropriately dealt with and would help to protect the public in certain cases.

The overall recommendations and proposals, within the consultation document, recognise the need for structured and organised work between agencies in this field. There are changes in practice that will require to be addressed and implications in relation to the need for training, including multi-agency training. The formation of multi-agency planning groups should help address these issues and agree on priorities and strategies at a local level.

The consultation document is useful in making proposals which will strengthen the framework for more effective planning, assessment and intervention with this client group. It supports the concepts of care and maximisation of community safety, and is welcomed by Social Work.

### 5. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked:

- to approve the comments made as suitable to forward the Scottish Office.



**JIM DICKIE,  
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK  
15TH MAY, 1998.**

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