

Voluntary Assistance

Extracts from Letter from Elizabeth Carmichael – Head of Community Justice Services Division – Informing of a Change of the Priority Groups for Phase 2.

As you know, Phase 2 of the enhanced throughcare strategy deals with voluntary assistance.

The Guidance which accompanied my letter of 24 May 2004 set out 3 priority groups for voluntary assistance which were:

- **High risk offenders not at present subject to statutory throughcare;**
- **Young offenders; and**
- **Those who have shown a commitment to address their offending behaviour or take up and continue with the offer of assistance under the SPS transitional care scheme.**

In June 2004, the Tripartite Group with members from the Scottish Executive, the Scottish Prison Service, and the Association of Directors of Social Work reviewed its programme of work and agreed that addiction abuse was an area where it wanted to concentrate its activities.

In the course of this work, the Group looked at the arrangements for providing transitional care to prisoners with drug problems. The Group has gone on to design a model which builds on the services provided by mainstream agencies to support short term prisoners with addiction problems on their release. It is a model which seeks to consolidate the work being done in prison establishments, embeds a Throughcare Addiction Service within the voluntary assistance service provided from criminal justice social work and links this to the drug services, co-ordinated by DATs.

With the proposal to incorporate the Throughcare Addiction Service into the voluntary assistance arrangements, the priority groups for voluntary assistance will now be:

- **High Risk Offenders, and**
- **Throughcare Addiction Service offenders.**

It is however expected that most young offenders will still fall into the new priority groups.

I attach a short paper prepared for the Tripartite Group which describes the model in more detail.