JUSTICE COMMITTEE

PRE-BUDGET SCRUTINY OF THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT’S DRAFT BUDGET 2019-20

SUBMISSION FROM SOCIAL WORK SCOTLAND

Social Work Scotland welcome the opportunity to contribute to the pre-budget scrutiny by the Justice Committee.

Our responses are as follows.

**Question 1:**

Social Work Scotland assume the rationale in the current trends of funding is to ensure sufficient funds are going to community responses to the Presumption Against Short Sentences which should impact on all elements of the justice sector. If this is the case, then would support this rationale. The Presumption Against Short-term Sentencing will bring additional pressures on Local Authority Social Work Justice services in meeting in increased demand in the delivery of community disposals. We have concerns given the current funding formula as to the resource implications for Social Work. We continue to support the need to ensure justice Section 27 remains ring fenced.

We believe the Scottish Government should give consideration to the transfer of resources to assist with the delivery of community sentences as the prison population continues to decrease.

Given the recognition and focus on Adverse Childhood Events (ACE’s) we would ask that the Scottish Government ensure community resources are geared up to deal with range of issues identified both statutory and voluntary.

**Question 2:**

Social work Scotland welcome the additional funding made available to the Crown and procurator fiscal service. Our areas concern is that given this additional funding there could be a consequential increase in demand for Social work services, for example an increase in requests for Social work Court reports, community supervision and an increased in the workload for Prison based social work services. Currently resources are insufficient for the additional demands placed on and increased workload of the service

**Question 3**

We find the questions posed in question 3 to be somewhat concerning that there is no mention of the statutory role for local authority social work services in terms of assessment of those suitable for electronic monitoring, as well as supervision. Increased use of monitoring, for example with those on home detention curfew, bail etc. and introduction of GPS monitoring. The concern for Local Authority Social work services is how this will be funded.
Question 4

Social Work Scotland are aware that reduction in Local Authority budgets and multi-agency partners has had an impact on our ability to commission 3rd sector projects.

Community Justice Partnerships have no development funding: this would be a more sensible route to channel funding to meet the needs identified in the local CJOIP