

## **ITEM 4.1A: PAPER TO RESEARCH COMMITTEE – LITERATURE REVIEW AND YOUNG OFFENDERS PROJECT**

*Previously considered by the Research Committee on 24 November 2016 as ITEM 2.3: INTERNSHIPS*

### **Purpose**

1. To alert the Research Committee to changes to the SGSSS Ph.D internship scheme expected dates and seek the committee's comments and approval on two proposals.

### **SGSSS Ph.D. Scheme Dates**

2. Previous Council meetings have discussed the possibility of recruiting a Ph.D. student through the SGSSS internship scheme. Dates for this scheme are fixed externally. It was previously understood that the scheme would be advertising for applicants at end November with expected start dates in January and the Council agreed this would be an appropriate method for procuring a full literature review of the Principles and Purposes of Sentencing.
3. However, updated timings for the scheme now mean that, although advertisements would be live in November, student start dates would fall around mid-April. As a consequence, it will not be possible utilise a Ph.D. intern to complete the literature review in time for issue as part of the Council's public consultation on Principles and Purposes.

### **Alternative Arrangements for Principles and Purposes Literature Review**

4. In light of these changes, we propose putting the principles and purposes literature review out for tender. This would be through the Public Contracts Scotland Quick Quote scheme, which allows for smaller scale projects to be tendered to a limited field. This approach is likely to be more expensive than a Ph.D intern, but sufficient budget is available to cover this.
5. A revised project specification, which takes account of Stephen O'Rourke's preliminary literature review is provided for the Committee's comment (paper RC2.3A)

6. Alternatively, the Committee may wish to consider whether Stephen O'Rourke's preliminary literature review may meet the Council's needs, or could be expanded in-house to do so.
  
7. **The Research Committee is asked to either:**
  - a) **Provide comments on paper RC2.3A and recommend to the Scottish Sentencing Council that the Secretariat take forward a tendering exercise; or**
  - b) **Recommend to the Scottish Sentencing Council that Stephen O'Rourke's literature review be considered in place of a full review**

### **Public Perceptions of Youth Offending**

8. Paper RC2.3B details a project on public perceptions of youth offending which could be considered for the SGSSS Ph.D. internship scheme for a mid-April start. This project would allow the Council to begin to undertake bespoke research on public perceptions on specific issues, as agreed on 20 June 2016 (AP19).
  
9. We still feel that the SGSSS Ph.D. internship scheme provides a good opportunity to undertake small scale research of interest to the Council at limited cost while giving valuable experience to future researchers. However, the limited control available over this scheme means increased risks for any project undertaken.
  
10. **The Research Committee is asked to:**
  - a) **Provide comments on paper RC2.3B and recommend to the Scottish Sentencing Council that the Secretariat take forward this project;**
  - b) **Recommend to the Scottish Sentencing Council that the Secretariat continue to engage with the SGSSS Ph.D. internship scheme and, *if possible*, take forward arrangements to fulfil the project detailed in RC2.3B through the Ph.D. internship scheme.**

## **Recommendations**

### **11. The Research Committee is asked to:**

- a) Agree a route for the Principles and Purposes literature review as detailed at paragraphs 7a and b;**
- b) Agree the public perceptions of youth offending project at paragraphs 10a and b.**

**Scottish Sentencing Council Secretariat**

**November 2016**