

To: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN RESPECT OF SERVICES TO DEAL WITH ALCOHOL MISUSE
From: HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES/CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER		
Date: 20 AUGUST 2008	Ref: RM	

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of new funding which has been made available by the Scottish Government to provide additional services in Lanarkshire to tackle alcohol misuse and to seek agreement for the recommendations highlighted in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

2. Background

2.1 The Scottish Government, in support of its agenda to tackle alcohol related problems, announced the allocation of additional funding for alcohol misuse for 2008/11 and the priority areas of expenditure in a letter to NHS Boards in March 2008. The additional funding for Lanarkshire is set out in the table below:-

Table 1: Additional investment in Lanarkshire alcohol services/activities 2008 - 2011

	2008/09	2009/2010	2010/2011
Additional investment (£)	1,620,976	1,097,502	493,500
Total	1,620,976	2,718,478	3,211,978

2.2 The priority areas for funding support the Lanarkshire Alcohol & Drug Action Team (ADAT) Strategy (2008 – 2011), submitted to the Scottish Government in June 2008. As the funding has been directed to Health Authorities, a three year Delivery Plan regarding the additional investment was presented to and agreed by the NHS Lanarkshire Board in June 2008.

2.3 The Alcohol Delivery Plan was completed following consultation with major stakeholders and endorsed by the North Lanarkshire Addictions Partnership Board. The plan sets out how this additional investment could be used in programmes and services over the next three years to improve the outcomes for individuals, families and local communities in Lanarkshire.

2.4 Creation or development of a range of services across health, social work and the voluntary sector are contained within the plan, which was approved by the NHS Lanarkshire Board. The plan contains a variety of approaches and strategies related to prevention, early intervention, counselling and support in maternity and young people's services and targeted services from dedicated health and social work staff in addressing the needs of those requiring more specific and direct interventions.

3. Proposals / Considerations

- 3.1 As the integrated health and social work addiction teams, which are located in the six main townships have become more established, scope for further development has been identified. This relates to the need to develop individualised, person centred approaches to supporting people with high level needs who use addiction services. The rise in numbers of people who have alcohol related brain damage also brings new challenges to providing safe and appropriate support arrangements within the community, rather than a care home placement.
- 3.2 As part of the overall service development it is proposed to create six new posts of social worker to work with people affected by alcohol addiction. These posts would be used to promote improved assessment and planning arrangements. This matches an increase in the number of nurses and is consistent with a proportional increase in staffing across psychology, occupational therapy and admin staff.

4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy Implications

- 4.1 As noted earlier, the costs associated with the creation of the social worker posts will be met from recurring funding allocated by the Scottish Government and made available to the council via NHS Lanarkshire.
- 4.2 The costs of these posts will be £220K, (inclusive of on costs and travelling expenses), per annum.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approves the recommendation to create six new posts of social worker
- (ii) remit to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub Committee and;
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.



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29 July 2008

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