

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

To: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: DEVELOPMENT OF A NORTH LANARKSHIRE OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY SOCIAL WORK SERVICE
From: HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES/CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER		
Date: 20 AUGUST 2008	Ref: DOD/EOC	

**1. Purpose of Report**

To seek Committee approval to create a manager post to manage the emergency out of hours social work service, other designated out of hours services as required and to co-ordinate social work out of hours provision in North Lanarkshire.

**2. Background**

2.1. In May 2008, Housing and Social Work Committee approved Social Work's withdrawal from its current contractual arrangement for emergency out of hours social work services with Glasgow City Council. The contract termination date is 31 March 2009. Up until that date Glasgow City Council will continue to provide a range of emergency services outside of core office hours seven days a week and on public holidays.

**3. Proposals**

- 3.1. Providing a locally located and managed services should assist the provision of quicker, flexible and responsive services to emergency situations such as child protection, protection of vulnerable adults etc.
- 3.2. In order to assist the council's statutory obligations to provide emergency out of hours social work services, it is proposed to create a manager post. The post would manage the emergency response service that will replace the existing service, and co-ordinate existing out of hours services provided from the Merrystone Care Base in Coatbridge. It is envisaged that this arrangement will better serve the co-ordination of all emergency and out of hours social work services.
- 3.3. The early appointment of such a manager is necessary to oversee the planning and development of the service prior to full implementation from 1 April 2009. The appointment for which approval is being sought is that of a Manager at NLC 15 Grade (£40233-£45117). The post holder will also be required to undertake an arrangement of standby and may be required to be called out, as such the post will attract the appropriate payment for Standby and Call out.

- 3.4. Full staffing proposals for the service will be the subject of a report to a future Housing and Social Work Committee for consideration.

**4. Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy/Implications**

- 4.1. The current cost of purchasing an emergency out of hours service from Glasgow City Council is £320k. This budget will fund the creation of the proposed post and the other costs associated with this development.
- 4.2. Transitional funding of approx £17k (inclusive of employer costs) is required for the appointment to be in place for a minimum of 3 months prior to commencement of the service. This will be sourced from existing budgets.
- 4.3. The personnel implications of this report will be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources Sub) Committee for their consideration.
- 4.4. The proposal will assist the Council fulfil its statutory obligations to provide an emergency out of hours Social Work service.

**5. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approve proposals for the creation of a Manager post at grade NLC15; and
- (ii) remit the report to Policy and Resources (Human Resources Sub) Committee for their consideration.



**Mary Fegan**  
**Head of Social Work Services/**  
**Chief Social Work Officer**  
**1 August 2008**

For further information on this report please contact Dennis O'Donnell, Manager, Quality Assurance on telephone 01698 332084.