

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: SOCIAL WORK INTENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE	
From: HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES / CHIEF SOCIAL WORK OFFICER			
Date: 25 FEBRUARY 2009	Ref: MF		

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

The purpose of this report is for Committee to note the proposed changes to the way in which intensive support services for young people are provided within North Lanarkshire.

2. Background

- 2.1. Intensive support services for children, young people and families across North Lanarkshire have been provided through the intensive young people's service at Community Alternatives, Coatbridge and the intensive family support service, based at Bellshill.
- 2.2. In addition, the Social Work Service has contracted with Includem, an independent sector provider, to provide an additional intensive service with a 24 hour call out facility.
- 2.3. Since April 2008 all Scottish Local Authorities have been required by the Scottish Government, to provide an Intensive Support and Monitoring Service (ISMS) where this is required by a Children's Hearing. Intensive Support and Monitoring Services require a 24 hour call out element. In North Lanarkshire the Includem Service has provided this within their contract.
- 2.4. The current contract with Includem requires the provision of 32 places for young people, receiving between 8-15 hours per week of service. In addition to the 24 hour on call element. The cost of the current service is £312,259.
- 2.5. During 2008 Includem's costs have risen significantly and they are now seeking an additional £127,335 in order to provide the existing contracted service.

3. Proposals / Considerations

- 3.1. The provision of the additional funding for the current contract would result in the total cost of the contract with Includem being £439,594. Paying this additional sum for the same level of service would not represent best value.

- 3.2. Re-tendering has been considered as an option. Following the redesign of the Children and Families Service, the Social Work service now provides intensive community based services within existing services. It is proposed to terminate the contract with Includem and incorporate the ISMS requirements into an extended intensive young person's service.
- 3.3. It is proposed to create an additional 6 Children & Family Support Workers at 37 hours per week, at a cost of £209,316 to allow the intensive service to provide a 24 hour on call element. This represents a net saving of £102,943 which forms part of the agreed efficiency savings. This proposed service will have links to the new Emergency Social Work Service to ensure that young people at risk of being accommodated can be appropriately supported outside of office hours.
- 3.4. In addition, it is proposed to re-designate a social work assistant post (NLC7) within the Children's Carers Team to a Children and Family Support Worker (NLC9) to provide assistance to supported carers working with young people in the community at a cost of £5,037.

4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy Implications

- 4.1. The current contract with Includem can be terminated by agreement between both parties. The Includem board agreed on 15th December 2008, that they would like to terminate the contract with effect from 31st March 2009.
- 4.2. A copy of the proposed personnel changes and costs are attached as an appendix to this report.
- 4.3. The proposed extension of to the Intensive Services would allow for current service provision to be maintained and the continued ability to provide an Intensive Support and Monitoring service when requested by the children's hearings.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) note the termination of the contract with Includem as of 31 March 2009
- (ii) note the creation of the posts detailed in the appendix to provide the new service
- (iii) remit the report to the Policy and Resources (Human Resources) Sub Committee for their consideration
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of the report.



Mary Fegan
Head of Social Work Services /Chief Social Work Officer
12 February 2009

For further information on this report please contact Iain Macaulay on telephone 01698 332194

SOCIAL WORK INTENSIVE SUPPORT SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
PERSONEL CHANGES AND COSTS

Personnel (

Post	Grade	No. of Posts	Salary Mid Point	Allowances	Total New Salary	Status	Costs
Children & Family Support Worker	NLC 9 (37 hours)	6	£26,357	£8,303	£166,445	Create	£166,445
Social Work Assistant	NLC 7 (37 hours)	1	£19,890	£0	£24,927	Re-designate to NLC 9	£ 5,037
25% On costs							£42,871
Total Costs							£214,353

Savings from Includem Contract	£312,259
Costs of Personnel Changes	£214,353
Total Savings	£97,906