

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**REPORT**

To: BELLSHILL AND DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE		Subject: YOUTH SHELTERS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE PROJECT
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Date: 24 MAY 2001	Ref: SAM/AA	

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A pilot project to develop six youth shelters, one in each decentralised area of North Lanarkshire is being carried out by the Department of Community Services in partnership with the police. Consideration has been given to various locations in this decentralised area and this report recommends a working area for the project.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An application to the Scottish Executive Community Safety Challenge Competition for 2001-2002 was made in October 2000 under the Community Safety Projects section for £30,000 towards the Youth Shelters and Community Safety in North Lanarkshire project. This project will pilot the development of youth shelters in six areas of North Lanarkshire and additional match funding will be used to develop youth outreach work to support the involvement of young people in the youth shelter developments.
- 2.2 Research by Thames Valley Police demonstrated that Youth Shelters provide what young people want, a place to meet and socialise, a sheltered place to sit and talk. The Police within North Lanarkshire support this project as do North Lanarkshire Community Safety Partnership who have a monitoring and evaluation role.
- 2.3 Young people "hanging around the streets" are often cited as one of the sources of anti-social behaviour and crime, however, young people are more likely to be the victims of street crime and often feel unsafe. As a result, North Lanarkshire Community Safety Partnership has prioritised the need to ensure that North Lanarkshire's young people have access to a good education, employment, training, leisure opportunities and that their potential is maximised and not threatened by crime and unsafe environments. The youth shelter project is one response to providing some of the above.
- 2.4 The provision of the community play and multi-sport area at Scarhill Street, Kirkshaws, which includes a youth shelter, has coincided with a decrease in crime, particularly vehicle crime, vandalism, breach of the peace and alcohol in the street. While all of these may not be directly attributed to the new facility they do reflect a decrease in youth associated crime.

- 2.5 The Thames Valley Police report highlighted the importance of youth and community involvement in the success of youth shelters. The development of the youth shelters will be supported by Community Education's youth work team and this service will receive additional funding to develop the youth work service based in the area identified for the youth shelter development. The youth out reach service will encourage the active participation of young people currently loitering in unacceptable locations and they will be given the opportunity to play an active role in the choice of design and location. The community will also be involved in the consultation process.
- 2.6 A youth shelter is a simple outdoor structure with a roof, seating and some form of side panels, designed to provide a place for young people to socialise. The youth shelter project fills a gap in current services for young people by providing them with a safe place of their own away from adults, where they will not be moved on.
- 2.7 The long-term maintenance of the shelters will be based on that for play areas.
- 2.8 There will be the opportunity to develop other facilities for young people through the initial youth shelter project. Young people could become constituted or link to an existing constituted group to access additional funding to develop other facilities.

### **3 YOUTH SHELTER LOCATION OPTIONS**

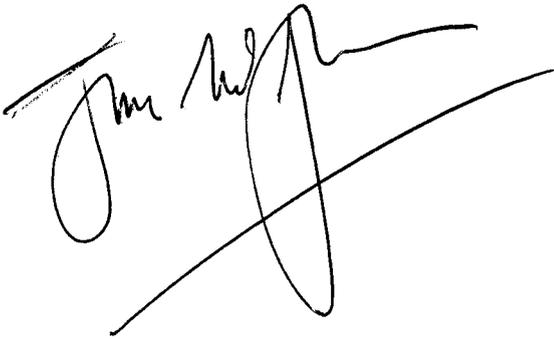
- 3.1 From considerations of current hot spots for youths causing annoyance and youth crime and disorder, the availability of youth out reach resources and other local factors, a number of geographical areas within this decentralised area have been short-listed and an area recommended.
- 3.2 The police have identified Holytown as the current the hot spot for youths causing annoyance and vandalism in this area. The Social Inclusion Partnership areas also have problems caused by youths but it is not as high as in Holytown where there is less for young people to do.
- 3.3 Community Education currently have youth out reach projects in Orbiston, Viewpark and Fallside where the development of a youth shelter could fit in with existing work. In Viewpark they work in partnership with the Focus Project management group who do not wish to support the youth shelter project. Similarly, the Stop and Talk project in Orbiston is a partnership with the YMCA who is not keen to take on a youth shelter.
- 3.4 Mossend has a community group who is working on the development of a play and multi-sport area that is to include a youth shelter. Although they were initially keen to have a youth shelter as part of this project, and they were supported by the elected member for Mossend East and New Stevenston North, the timing of the shelter does not fit into their development plan.
- 3.5 Fallside Action Group is keen to be involved in the development of a youth shelter. The youth shelter development will fit into the development of Fallside Neighbourhood Centre. This would also link into the existing youth out reach work in this area and it has the support of the elected member for Fallside.

#### 4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The decision of the area committee on the priority area for the youth shelters project forms the start of the community consultation and involvement process. The above options are presented for consideration with the recommendation that Fallside will be the pilot area within this decentralised area.

#### 5 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that the committee support the development of a youth shelter at a location in Fallside with youth out reach support and community consultation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Hill', is written over a large, diagonal, hand-drawn scribble or signature line.