

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT

TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		SUBJECT: - RESIDENTIAL ACTION PLAN
FROM: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
DATE: 19 AUGUST 1996	REF: DMCK/MR	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update committee on the progress of the action plan and to seek approval to take the necessary steps to establish a small children's unit in the Motherwell area.

2. INTRODUCTION

Since the previous report of 15th May 1996 steps have been taken to identify property within North Lanarkshire which might be suitable for a small childrens home. A unit has now been identified which has already been offered to the Department which is considered suitable for the purpose.

3. THE PROPOSED UNIT

The unit is situated in Leslie Street, Motherwell. It was formerly a local repair base incorporating two flats, a workshop and a garage with a large area of ground to the rear.

The unit is similar in appearance to other housing stock of this type. It is located near the town centre and therefore has access to good shopping facilities and other amenities.

It is intended to use it as a five/six bedded unit with four single rooms and a double room. In addition, the ground floor could be used as two independent flats with separate entrances should there be a demand for this, as young people move towards independent living.

4. FINANCE

There is available within the Capital Programme £100,000 for the refurbishing of accommodation to be used as a small family type Children's Home.

Discussions are underway with South Lanarkshire Social Work Department to withdraw from using that authority's Children's Home in Carluke. This would release some £400,000 in revenue which would cover the running costs and staff costs of the new Motherwell Children's Home.

5. FURTHER ACTION

The Department now needs to commission Construction Services to produce detailed plans and costings for refurbishment and to undertake further work to determine appropriate staffing levels.

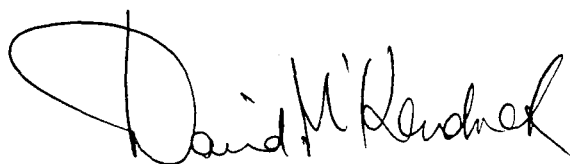
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## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked to:-

- 1] Approve the use of the property at Leslie Street, Motherwell for these purposes.
- 2] Remit the matter to the Housing Committee for its interest.
- 3] Approve the further discussions with South Lanarkshire on the withdrawal of this authority from use of Carluke Children's Home.
- 4] Approve the request to Construction Services to produce detailed plans and costings.
- 5] Instruct the Director of Social Work to report from time to time on the progress of the action plan to restructure residential child care.



David McKendrick  
Director of Social Work