

AGENDA ITEM No. 16  
NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Social Work Department

Source Director of Social Work

Destination Chief Executive

Subject Strathclyde Regional Council - Urban Programme  
Mainlining Primary Link/Support Unit, Coatbridge

Committee Submission  
(if applicable) Interim Executive Committee

Date 11th September, 1995.

My Ref DMCK/HS

Your Ref

Distribution Director of Administration  
Director of Education  
Director of Finance  
Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)  
File

Purpose of Report

This report seeks to be the basis for this Council's response to the request by the Chief Executive of Strathclyde Regional Council for comment regarding the transfer to main line funding of the Primary Link and Support Unit situated in Kirkwood/Kirkshaws, Coatbridge.

Background

This project has been operational for four years and is currently continued on contingency funding since its termination date of June, 1995.

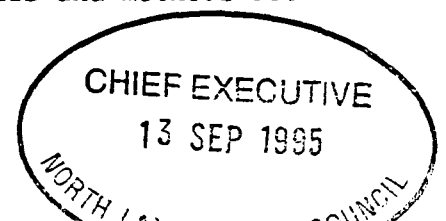
The purpose of the project was to help children and families address potential problems relating to schooling and to anti-social behaviour, to identify and promote the needs of vulnerable children and to promote an understanding in parents and teachers about the shared responsibility of the home and school in the interests of the child's development.

The project was also designed to encourage parents to become more involved in their childrens education and to provide support for children both within school and after school. In addition the support would be extended to youngsters transferring from primary school to secondary school.

Evaluation

The project consists of two group workers and part time clerical support. It provides group work and individual support for children, assists parents to participate in the child's education and enhances the parents own social development.

Programmes of group work activities are integrated to class time during and after school and during school holidays. A range of materials and methods are used including drama and craft work.

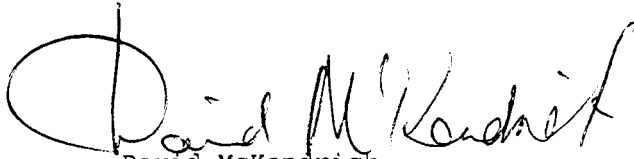


The view locally is that the project is successful in meeting these objectives and is valued by both the social workers in the area team and the local schools. It has established itself as contributing to the social work department efforts in supporting children in trouble and making best use of their social and educational opportunities. It is said that the project assists in preventing children being received into the care of the local authority and of being referred to the Reporter's department.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The project is collaborative with schools and has objectives towards preventing problems of behaviour and disaffection in vulnerable children. It appears to promote understanding between parents and teachers and to prevent breakdown in education and family life.

The Council are asked to indicate to Strathclyde Regional Council that they endorse the decision of the Personnel Services Committee of Strathclyde Regional Council on 29th August, 1995 to approve the transfer of this project to main line funding.



David McKendrick,  
Director of Social Work.