

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee	Subject: Development of a Youth Strategy
From: Chief Executive	
Date: 19 January 1998	Ref: CE/012/003/012E

**1.0 Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee to consider the development of a Youth Strategy for North Lanarkshire Council.

**2.0 Introduction**

2.1 The development of a Youth Strategy by North Lanarkshire Council acknowledges the Council's commitment to developing opportunities for young people, which allows them to develop both as individuals and as members of the community.

2.2 The Youth Strategy will create a planning and development framework which promotes the involvement of young people in the democratic processes and establishes integrated services for all young people in North Lanarkshire.

2.3 As such, the Youth Strategy will be a corporate initiative with each department being required to consider the effects of service and policy priorities for all young people in North Lanarkshire Council.

2.4 The Youth Strategy will aim to highlight the relationship between Council departments as well as the various partnerships with external agencies and voluntary organisations.

**3.0 Process**

3.1 It is proposed that a Member/Officer Group is established to develop the strategy in partnership with young people, interested voluntary organisations and external agencies.

3.2 The development of a Youth Strategy is a process which will involve:-

- an audit of current provision for young people
- consultation
- development of an Action Plan
- monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

3.3 Audit of current provision

3.4 An audit of provision will assist with the creation of a framework and will offer Council departments, voluntary organisations and external agencies the opportunity to consider the services currently available for young people.

3.5 Consultation

3.6 The consultation process and mechanisms should be varied, however, there is a need to involve young people, voluntary organisations and external agencies in the process to ensure that any policy/strategy developments retain credibility with young people.

3.7 Whilst the involvement of young people in the process is crucial it must be recognised that representation of young people on formal structures tends to be poor and therefore support by Council staff will be essential.

3.8 Development of an action plan

3.9 The proposed Member/Officer Group will be responsible for the development of an Action Plan. The Action Plan should include, issues, resource requirements, timescales and departmental and agency involvement in the Youth Strategy.

3.10 Following the development of the Action Plan, proposals to implement any new services and initiatives will be presented to the Sub Committee.

3.11 Monitoring and Evaluation

3.12 A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan will be developed which will enable the Council to monitor and review the Strategy and to react to evolving situations and it should encourage original and inventive methods of service delivery as well as allowing the Council to guide the process.

3.13 The review of these priorities, services and initiatives will be completed through an ongoing consultation process with regular reports to the Sub Committee.

3.14 If the proposals outlined are approved the Member/Officer Group will be established expeditiously. The Chief Executive's Department will produce a full remit and terms of reference for the Group, as well as issues for discussion.

**4.0 Proposed timescale for Youth Strategy Development**

January - April 1998	Establishment of Member/Officer Group Develop a mechanism for involving young people in the review process Development of issues for young people in the review process
May 1998	North Lanarkshire Youth Conference
August 1998	Reports to relevant Council Committees
October 1998	Launch of North Lanarkshire Council's Youth Strategy

**5.0 Conclusion**

5.1 Youth Strategy development will encourage corporate working as well as partnerships with other agencies, the voluntary sector and most importantly the individuals in communities facing issues directly.

**6.0 Recommendations**

6.1 It is recommended that the Sub Committee :

- (I) approves the establishment of a Youth Strategy Member/Officer Group;
- (ii) approve the proposed timescale for Youth Strategy Development;
- (iii) approve the presentation of progress reports to future Sub Committee meetings; and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of the report.

*pp. M. Castles.*  
**Chief Executive**