

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

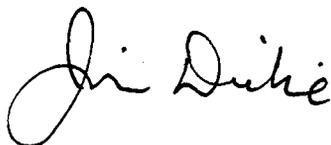
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| TO: Social Work Committee | Subject: "A Secure Remedy" : A Review of Secure Care in Scotland. |
| FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work | |
| DATE OF COMMITTEE: 10 June 1997 | |
| REF: JD/MD | |

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 10 September 1996 the Education Committee noted a report from the Director of Social Work describing the recommendations of a Scottish Office document entitled " A Secure Remedy : A Review of Secure Care in Scotland". The report has been approved earlier by the Social Work Committee. A copy is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.2 The Scottish Office document made a number of recommendations on the provision of secure accommodation. Amongst these was a recommendation that local authorities should review their arrangements for co-operation between Social Work and Education Departments in assessing and treating primary school children with serious behavioural difficulties. Thereafter a report on the results was to be submitted to the Scottish Office.
- 1.3 The necessary review has been completed and the results have been forwarded to the Scottish Office as requested. A copy of the Council response is attached as Appendix B. Unfortunately due to the timescale involved the response was submitted prior to receiving committee approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to homologate the response made by the Chief Executive on behalf of North Lanarkshire Council.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
May 29 1997

REPORT

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| To: Social Work Committee (Ops & Services) Sub Committee | | Subject: A Secure Remedy - Review of Secure Care in Scotland |
| From: Director of Social Work | | |
| Date: 19th August 1996 | Ref: SP/LM | |

1.0 Purpose of Report

To advise committee of the document which has been issued. Because of the short timescales given for response a brief resume of the main points have been included in the report.

It should be noted that this document has been issued by the Scottish Office to local authorities for comment on its implementation, not for consultation.

2.0 Introduction

The Secretary of State has published a document "A Secure Remedy" which has 28 recommendations, several of which have to be taken forward by the Scottish Office.

2.1 Currently there are 7 units in Scotland registered to provide secure accommodation for children aged 8-18 years. Between them these units provide 89 places. They are St. Mary's Kenmure, Glasgow (24 places); Rossie, Angus (25 places); Kerelaw, Ayrshire (24 places); Rimpleton, Fife (2 places); Braid and Guthrie Units, Edinburgh (12 places) and Hightrees, Dumfries (2 places).

2.2 The aim of secure care is to provide in conditions of security, education, treatment and care to children whose conduct makes them a risk either to the public or to themselves. Children may be sentenced to be detained in secure care by the courts following serious crimes. They may also be placed in secure accommodation by children's hearings.

2.3 North Lanarkshire currently only has 1 child in secure accommodation. This low number is a consequence of community based alternatives developed within the Motherwell area in particular which the department intends to develop in Airdrie, Coatbridge and Cumbernauld.

3.0 The main recommendations which are to be taken forward by the Scottish Office are:

- * The re-development of St. Mary's Kenmure as a 30 bed unit (providing 6 extra places) at a cost of £7.5 million.
- * Improved maintenance of all schools to avoid places being out of commission.
- * Management improvements to avoid drift and slow turnover in bed places.
- * A new education block at Rossie School at a cost of £0.3 million.
- * The establishment of a Secure Accommodation Admissions Bureau.

- * The establishment of a National Planning Group for secure accommodation and related care, and education services for children with disturbed behaviour which includes offending.
- 4.0 The main recommendations which are to be implemented by the Local Authorities are:
- * Each year Police and Social Work Departments should review the arrangements and practice in each force area for children who need to be held on a place of safety before appearing in court.
 - * Local authorities should give units as much information as possible on each child before the child arrives in secure care.
 - * Each child in secure should have their own programme of care.
 - * Local authorities should consult secure units to agree standards for arranging aftercare and education for the children leaving secure care.
 - * Local authorities and others should continue to develop community based care projects for young people who would otherwise end up in secure accommodation. The results of these projects must be assessed.
 - * Local authorities should review their arrangements for co-operation between Social Work and Education Departments in assessing and treating primary school children with serious behavioural difficulties. They should complete these reviews by December 1996 and report the results to the Scottish Office by February 1997.
 - * Young peoples needs should be assessed and planned more effectively.
 - * The new local authority children's services plans should recognise the value of residential schools for children with particularly difficult behaviour and should set out how the authority will pay for places for children who need them.
- 5.0 Action Currently Being Undertaken by Social Work Department

The Social Work Department already has close links with the Education Department and has embarked on a review of both education and social work community resources for children with behavioural difficulties. An action plan is being drafted with a view to presenting this to both the Education and Social Work Committee. A joint Education and Social Work Service Plan bid for a joint resource which will provide assessment, Intermediate Treatment facilities and educational facilities for children with behavioural difficulties has been made. Discussions with Kerelaw have already taken place regarding the throughcare and aftercare services provided to young people.

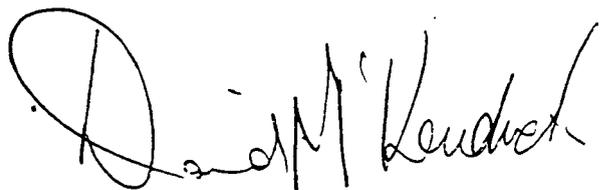
Recommendations

The committee is asked to:

1. Note the action currently being undertaken to implement some of these recommendations and that in line with the Children (Scotland) Act, a joint Education and Social Work report is shortly to be presented to both committees outlining an action plan which covers the main points within this report.

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2. Refer this report to the Education Committee for their interest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David McKendrick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "M".

David McKendrick
Director of Social Work
August 1996

C O P Y

APPENDIX B

Our Ref: AIC/AF Contact: Mr Cowe
Your Ref: Telephone: 01698 302452
Date: 12 May, 1997 Fax: 01698 230265

Stella Everingham
Inspector
The Scottish Office
Social Work Services Inspectorate
James Craig Walk
Edinburgh
EH1 3BA

Dear Ms Everingham

A Secure Remedy Recommendation 24

I refer to your letter of 16 April regarding the above and can advise you as follows.

Our Education and Social Work Departments have established a Joint Consultation Group, composed of senior education and social work personnel and chaired and administered by Education. Its aims are a follows:

- * to jointly agree outcomes on children and young persons with severe behavioural and emotional disturbance which may require specialised residential provision.
- * to agree on the funding responsibility for any outcomes, including the use of joint funding by both departments.
- * to enable both departments to improve their collaborative work together in the best interests of their shared client group.
- * to enable both departments to identify potential or actual shortfalls in provision and address these through collaborative approaches both at an operational and strategic level.

Particular attention is paid to the needs of those primary-aged pupils who are brought to the group's notice

A team of psychologists specialising in EBD, and led by a Depute Principal Psychologist, has been formed within the Psychological Service. The Depute concerned also has an overall operational involvement in managing liaison with Social Work and Health regarding individual casework issues.

A Primary Behaviour Support Team, comprising specialist teachers, provides direct consultation and support to pupils in mainstream primary schools who are exhibiting severe behavioural disturbance with the aim of maintaining these pupils in their local schools and communities. Access to this support, and its ongoing review, is founded in a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency approach.

A number of Education and Social Work staff have undertaken an extensive course in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention and proposals are in hand to extend this joint training to a range of staff in both departments.

A local ADHD group has been established, chaired by a consultant psychiatrist, and bringing together representatives from Education, Health and Social Work with a view to establishing a collaborative approach to children and young persons suffering from difficulties in this area.

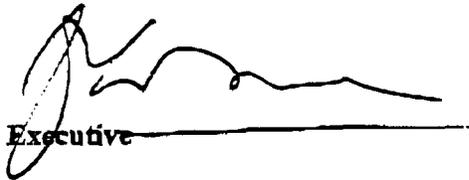
Regular meetings are held of Education and Social Work management staff at the most senior level in order to maximise inter-departmental working in a number of areas - EBD in particular.

Stella Everingham

12 May, 1997

The Education Department has made the expansion of EBD resources a high priority, albeit that this has to be achieved in the context of severe budgetary constraint.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Stella Everingham', written over a horizontal line.

Chief Executive