

AGENDA ITEM No. <sup>21</sup> .....

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

<b>Social Work Committee :</b> <b>8 June 1999</b>	<b>Subject :</b>  Criminal Justice Services - Interim Grant Allocation 1999/2000
<b>From :</b> <b>Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work</b> <b>Prepared by :</b> <b>John S Scott, Principal Officer,</b> <b>Criminal Justice</b>	

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to :

- Inform the Social Work Committee of the interim grant allocation for Criminal Justice Services provided by the Scottish Office for the current financial year.
- Seek approval for the establishment of additional posts in Criminal Justice Services, consistent with increased workload.

2. **BACKGROUND**

The Social Work Department submitted a Criminal Justice Strategic Plan to the Scottish Office, in January of this year, covering the period 1999 - 2002. This contained proposals for the development of Criminal Justice Services within North Lanarkshire.

Funding bids contained in the Strategic Plan follows the Comprehensive Spending Review. The outcome of bids made will be known by the end of June. In the meantime, the Scottish Office have provided an interim grant allocation for the delivery of existing core services.

3. **INTERIM GRANT ALLOCATION**

In 1998/9, the Scottish Office provided funding of £1,803,000 for Criminal Justice Services. For the current year, North Lanarkshire applied for funding of £1,994,000 for existing services in 1999/00. Interim grant allocations for existing services have been made, to include an element for inflation and a one-off increase from the Comprehensive Spending Review to increase core resources. The interim allocation to North Lanarkshire is £1,879,000. Although there has been an increase in funding from 1998/9, the allocation is lower than the bid, due in part to differences in assessment of likely outturn figures for Social Enquiry Reports between the Council and the Scottish Office, and due to the application of a revised formula for the allocation of grant, which establishes a base for the division between Councils of available funding. The level of funding is not, however, tied to levels of demand from the courts. We are informed that the level of funding provided for existing services is not negotiable.

The overall funding position is not yet entirely clear, however. The level of funding to be made available for work associated with the pilot Electronic Monitoring scheme in Lanarkshire is not yet known.

Funding has been provided for the following levels of service. Work done in 1998/9 is shown for comparison :

	1999/0	1998/9
<b>Social Enquiry Reports</b>	1,841	1,892
<b>Probation orders</b>	355	369
<b>Community Service Orders</b>	425	370
<b>Home Circumstance Reports</b>	71	70
<b>Throughcare Orders</b>	26	56
<b>Supervised Attendance Orders</b>	200	143

#### 4. STRUCTURE OF SERVICES

It is intended to review the structure of Criminal Justice Services when the overall level of funding is clear, and to bring forward proposals to ensure that services are focused on continuous improvement and quality of intervention. In the meantime, a review of workload has been undertaken, and the Committee is asked to approve the establishment of additional posts to strengthen the delivery of core services, pending a wider review.

Currently, 19 whole time equivalent (WTE) social worker posts and 7.5 clerical assistant posts are approved for the delivery of Criminal Justice Services in Area Teams. These posts are allocated in accordance with the proportional workloads of Teams. The review of workloads is based on funding provided for the current year, an assessment of targets for each Area Team, and proposed changes later in the year. 21 social worker posts and 7.8 clerical posts are required to support the delivery of core services, and the Committee is asked to approve the establishment of 2 additional social worker posts at APIV/V QSW Grade and 1 additional clerical assistant post at GS1/2 Grade. Posts are allocated to Area Teams on a whole time equivalent basis in accordance with the workload for the Team, and the proposed overall establishment takes account of the need for flexibility as the Department reviews the overall structure of Criminal Justice Services.

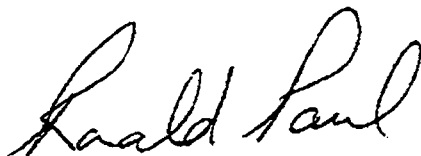
As noted, these posts strengthen existing services. The outcome of the wider review of Criminal Justice Services will be reported to the Committee at a later stage, at which time these posts will be subsumed in any change to the structure.

The overall cost of the proposed increase in staffing is £62,000 in a full year and £46,500 in the current financial year. The balance of additional funding provided by the Scottish Office will be used to enhance the Criminal Justice Training Programme, review inadequate budgets for Sessional Work Supervisors and Transport costs in the Community Service Scheme, and purchase additional IT equipment to increase the productivity of Criminal Justice staff. All costs will be funded through the 100% funding mechanism and there will be no cost to the Council.

**5. RECOMMENDATION**

The committee is asked to :

- Note the level of Interim Grant Allocation.
- Approve the establishment of additional social worker posts at APIV/V QSW Grade and one clerical assistant post at GS1/2 Grade.
- Note that the outcome of the wider review of Criminal Justice Services will be reported to the Committee at a later stage.



**Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work**  
**May 24th 1999**

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