

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: Youth Crime Review - It's a Criminal Waste - Stop Youth Crime Now Making it Work Together
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 21st November, 2000.	
REPORT AUTHOR: Sandra Paterson, Principal Officer, Child Care	
REF: SP/HS	

1. PURPOSE AND CONTENT OF REPORT

- 1.1 To ask committee to approve proposals for the development of services on the basis of funding provided by the Scottish Executive in relation to the Youth crime Review with the objective of targeting young people's offending behaviour. (These proposals are set out in Appendix 1).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As referred to in an earlier report the Scottish Executive commissioned a review of Youth Crime which started in December, 1999 and culminated in the production of the above report.
- 2.2 The remit was to assess the extent and effectiveness of options currently available to Children's Hearings and courts in cases involving persistent offenders and to look at the scope for improving the range and availability of options aimed at addressing the actions of persistent young offenders.

3. SERVICES CURRENTLY WITHIN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

- 3.1 There are currently four young persons support units, i.e. Viewpark, Burngreen, Bonnyhill and Waverley Drive. These units offer individual group work and part time teaching to young people some of whom will have been involved in offending.
- 3.2 The 7 Day Centre offers a specific service for young people, mainly young men who have been involved in car offences. Kirknowe assessment centre offers day assessment as an alternative to residential assessment for young people referred through the Children's Hearing system.

These services cover the whole of North Lanarkshire.

- 3.3 There are also two Criminal Justice/Child Care Bridging Teams, one in Cumbernauld and one in Wishaw which are piloting focused intervention using both child care and criminal justice skills and practice with young people who are persistent offenders.
- 3.4 Other intervention has been contracted out to the Barnardos Chosi project for an intensive service which diverts young people 14 to 16 years from the Criminal Justice system and residential schools. Includem, another organisation, also provides an out of hours intensive one to one service and a 24 hour helpline for young people who are involved in offending and who have chaotic and disrupted lifestyles.
- 3.5 All of these services are delivered alongside intervention by the area team worker who will work with the family or carer as well as the young person and will access other relevant services, such as addiction services, careers, housing and employment where necessary.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The proposals include to appoint four full time equivalent social workers and four full time equivalent group workers to roll out the pilot Criminal Justice Child Care Bridging Teams across the authority. The work of Includem is to be extended to a greater number of young people. New Start, currently only operating in one location is also to be extended to the whole authority through extending the contract of 'New Start' workers which will offer better access to employment and training for young people. New services will include the commissioning of a reparation and mediation service from Safeguarding Communities Reducing Offending (SACRO).
- 4.2 The use of programmes targeted at young people who offend will be rolled out across the authority through the expanded number of Bridging teams and the services for young people will be used more effectively with the appointment of one person to audit, monitor, co-ordinate and propose developments for these young people.
- 4.3 Overall, there will therefore be a more effective co-ordination of service for young people at risk.
- 4.4 The proposals are summarised in the Appendix to this report.

5. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposals recommend the creation of a senior officer at grade PO5 with a Diploma in Social Work qualification to co-ordinate the young peoples service, four full time equivalent social worker posts, four full time equivalent group work posts

with the relevant qualifications and three GS1/2 administrative posts to service the Bridging Teams

6. FINANCE

- 6.1 The proposals will be met through the monies from the Children's Development Fund, currently £252,000 part year costs rising to £360,000 full year costs. The PO5 post will require £30,000 full year costs while the social worker and group worker posts will cost £200,000 for full year costs.

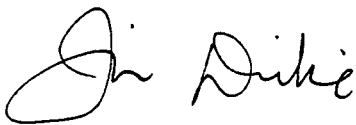
7. SUMMARY

- 7.1 The proposals arising from the Youth Crime Review along with the funding from the Scottish Executive will allow North Lanarkshire Council to greatly enhance the services to those young people who are involved in offending, including to reduce offending behaviour. Regular evaluation will take place to ensure that the objectives of a reduction in offending, greater community safety and the social inclusion of these young people are met.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Committee is asked to -

- note the contents of this report
- approve the proposals contained in section 4 of the report and detailed within the Appendix
- request that the Director of Social Work provides an update on the implementation and progress of the proposals
- remit the report to the Personnel Services Committee



JIM DICKIE
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK
OCTOBER, 2000.

(For further information contact Sandra Paterson, Principal Officer, Child Care - Telephone 01698 332032)

APPENDIX 1

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL - SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

	PROPOSAL	OBJECTIVE	P/T COSTS	FULL YEAR
1.	Develop Bridging Teams across North Lanarkshire Appoint 4 FTE Social Workers and 4 FTE Group Workers	To provide a focused groupwork and individual service which specifically targets offending behaviour for those young people 14+ who are persistent young offenders.	£144,200	£200,000
2.	Purchase mediation services from SACRO	To provide mediation and reparation services for young people 14 years and up.	£21,000	£30,000
3.	Purchase intensive intervention services from Includem	To provide an intensive one to one service to young people 14+ who present the most difficult and challenging behaviour and have chaotic lifestyles. This includes a 24 hour emergency phone line service.	£14,000	£20,000
4.	Purchase vocational training service from a voluntary organisation for 15 ½ up and contribute to a local authority job coach scheme	Social Inclusion through the provision of vocational training and supported employment placements for young people 15+	£12,600	The full year costs £1,800 will be met through another budget

	PROPOSAL	OBJECTIVE	P/T COSTS	FULL YEAR
5.	Appoint 3 FTE clerical workers at GS1/2 level for Bridging Teams	To support work of Bridging Teams	£25,200	£36,000
6.	Extend New Start Scheme in other areas by employing a part time worker	To offer 6 young people the opportunity to develop social skills and raise self esteem through participating in accredited programmes leading to the Duke of Edinburgh Award	£14,000	£20,000
7.	Appoint a co-ordinator at PO5 level who will be responsible for the co-ordination of all young persons support services including those for young people who offend.	To ensure that all young people have access to appropriate resources appropriate to their assessed need. To overview, monitor and be responsible for service development for young people who offend.	£21,000	£30,000
8.	Travel and subsistence	To provide travel and subsistence	-	£16,000
9.	Training	For new staff to increase skills and knowledge	-	£8,000
	TOTAL		£252,000	£360,000

It is likely due to the time frame for the appointment of staff that there will be an under spend in the first part year costs.

It is therefore intended to purchase the following as part of the infrastructure for the new teams.

	PROPOSAL	OBJECTIVE	P/T COSTS	ONE OFF FULL YEAR
1.	One computer for each team and support package based on a learning package and on line facilities in each Young Persons Support Unit, i.e. 6 units. Plus twelve computers not on line.	To provide each team with on line facilities and access to leaching/learning packages.		£84,000

PROPOSAL	OBJECTIVE	P/T COSTS	ONE OFF FULL YEAR
2.	Multi agency training for YPSU residential and EBD and Criminal Justice staff on what working agenda, inter agency working, managing challenging behaviour - 6 days and staff replacement.		£25,000
3.	Purchase of expertise to develop an evaluation		£5,000
TOTAL			£104,000

These proposals have been agreed with Criminal Justice and Child Care Officers. The proposals are consistent with the objectives set out in the Scottish Executive document - "It's a Criminal Waste Stop Youth Crime".