

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: REQUEST FOR SPECIAL LEAVE	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: AUGUST 23 <sup>RD</sup> 2001	Ref: R&I SL	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of the Committee to allow a member of the staff of the Social Work Department to have a period of extended leave.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The member of staff concerned has requested that she be allowed to take a period of 6 months Special Leave, unpaid, from February 1<sup>st</sup> 2002, to enable her to visit her partner, currently working in Australia.
- 2.2. The member of staff is an experienced qualified social worker with 14 years service, and is a valued member of the Social Work Department. She wishes to work with North Lanarkshire Council on her return. She has not previously been granted leave of absence.

**3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Social Work Department is keen that the member of staff is supported in this proposal that she maintain contact with her partner, and that she return to work for the Authority in the future.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the request for Special Leave, unpaid, be approved.
- 3.3 It has been reported to Committee previously that the Social Work Department has experienced difficulty with the recruitment of qualified social workers due to national shortage. Support for this request will ensure retention of an experienced and valued worker.

**4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial or legal implications. As noted above, support for this measure will ensure retention of the worker concerned.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked to:

- 5.1 approve the request for Special Leave;
- 5.2 remit the report to Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee for consideration.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**15 August 2001**

*For further information on this report please contact Margaret Wilson, Service Manager, Personnel TEL: (01698 332212)*