

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: CONTRACT WITH STIRLING UNIVERSITY MANAGEMENT TRAINING
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 20 DEC 2001	Ref: AJ	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To obtain Committee approval for the commissioning of a management training programme for unit managers within the Social Work Department

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) was established in October 2001 by the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001. One of the responsibilities of the Social Services Council is the registration of the Social Services workforce. Unit managers in residential and day care establishments are one of the first groups of staff who will require to register with the SSSC.
- 2.2. The condition of registration for unit managers will be possession of a qualification matched against the newly approved Registered Managers occupational standards. To hold the post of unit manager staff will require this qualification.
- 2.3. As this is a new qualification few people already hold this qualification. At present only two managers within North Lanarkshire's 33 residential and day care units hold a qualification equivalent to these standards.
- 2.4. To prevent the Department losing experienced managers, the Department wishes to offer the opportunity to current staff to gain this qualification.
- 2.5. The Department also wishes to progress the current Departmental restructuring process by enabling a group of manager to undertake tailored training together.
- 2.6. Key components of this programme therefore require to be
 - ◆ Training accredited at an appropriate academic level for PO2 posts
 - ◆ Training meets the new Registered Managers standards
 - ◆ Training was tailored to progress current Departmental objectives
 - ◆ Staff undertake the training and gain the qualification through a mixture of academic assessment, vocational assessment and assessment of standards of work practice
 - ◆ To maintain best value the programme would be delivered on Departmental premises

- 2.7 Four Universities were approached with this brief, only one of which, Stirling, was able to offer the programme required by the Social Work Department. Stirling University is able to provide a tailored programme incorporating work directly related to progressing Departmental objectives, matched against the Registered Managers standards. Through this programme staff will be able to qualify and therefore register with the SSSC through the attainment of the post graduate Certificate in Public Service Management. This programme was discussed with and approved by a representative from SSSC.
- 2.8 Initial indicative costs are considerably lower than the cost of attaining this qualification on an individual basis. Individual costs are usually £2,250. Based in North Lanarkshire Council premises, Stirling University is able to provide training for 20 people at a total cost of £24,900. The cost of resourcing this will be met from the existing Departmental training budget.
- 2.9 It is proposed that the programme commences in February 2002
- 2.10 Information concerning the outline specification for the Department's requirements and correspondence with the universities concerned is held by the Director of Social Work.
- 2.11 As there is only one provider able to provide the service required, negotiated tendering is considered to be relevant.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Committee is asked to approve the commissioning of this training programme from Stirling University.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
15th November 2001

*For further information on this report please contact R Paul, Head of Social Work Resources
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