

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: INCLUDEM OFFENDERS PROJECT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 9 MAY 2002	Ref: MH/CC	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To seek Committee approval to renew the contract with Includem Offenders Project which expired on 31 March 2002.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The intensive service provided by Includem for young people who offend was commissioned jointly by North and South Lanarkshire Councils following a process of tendering in July 2000.
- 2.2. The original contract specified a service to 6 young people in North Lanarkshire and 24 young people in South Lanarkshire.
- 2.3. The original contract was for £140000 per annum with North Lanarkshire's share being £35000.
- 2.4. This service was extended in May 2001 to provide an additional 4 places for North Lanarkshire and 8 places for South Lanarkshire. This meant an increase to £232470 per annum with an increase of £20000 for North Lanarkshire Council. This was approved by the respective Social Work Committees of North and South Lanarkshire Council.
- 2.5. The work of Includem is reviewed by a joint monitoring group which meets on a 3 monthly basis. In addition to this operational reviews are carried out in North Lanarkshire by an identified link officer on a 6 weekly basis.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. A recent evaluation report carried out jointly by North and South Lanarkshire Council officers concluded that Includem have been successful in the aims of reducing the number of young people going into custody or secure accommodation. There is also evidence to suggest a reduction in offending behaviour both in overall numbers of re-offending and also in the type of offences the young people have been involved in.
- 3.2. At the end of the first year of operation Includem were offering a service to 42 young people in total twelve of whom came from North Lanarkshire. This increase in the agreed numbers was as a result of a less intensive service being given to a number of young people while in custody.
- 3.3. The service provided by Includem is generally considered by both Councils to be a valuable asset in the repertoire of services for young people who offend. In light of experience, a number of areas of service require to be reviewed such as use of a 24 hour helpline, mobile phones and agreed levels of service. A new monitoring framework will be implemented allowing a separation of performance information for North and South Lanarkshire Councils .

- 3.4. In line with Scotland's Actions Programme 2002 (reported to Committee in April 2002) coupled with the expansion of Young People's Drug and Alcohol Services throughout the Authority the Department is undertaking a review of all support services to young people. The outcome of this review will inform whether there is a need to expand the service provided by Includem or other service providers.
- 3.5. North Lanarkshire views the service provided by Includem as valuable and would want to maintain the present level of service for the next two years. This period of time will also allow an evaluation of the impact of the Youth Justice Teams and the Rushes Project.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Includem are requesting an increase in the annual grant to £284 950 from both Authorities. The cost will be shared by the two Authorities on the basis of the number of places available to each, North Lanarkshire Council having 10 places and South Lanarkshire Council having 26 places available.
- 4.2 In the year 2001/02 there was acknowledgement of the need for necessary extension to the project. A further contribution from North Lanarkshire of £8370 is necessary to fund additional allowances for travel, the 24 hour helpline and support by mentors (a crucial component of the service delivery). South Lanarkshire Council have agreed to meet their share of the additional costs amounting to £28470.
- 4.3 North Lanarkshire along with South Lanarkshire will draw up a new contract with Includem which will include a robust monitoring and reporting framework.
- 4.4 It is proposed that North Lanarkshire's payment to Includem will be to £79,152 per annum for the 2 years 2002/2003 and 2003/04. (2003/4 will be subject to inflationary increase only).
- 4.5 The service will be reviewed prior to any further recommendation for continuation of the contract.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. Committee is asked to:
- (i) Approve the recommendation to continue to purchase services from Includem – Offenders Project. Approve payment of additional £8370 for 2001/02 as per 4.2 above.
 - (ii) approve the increase in payment to Includem to £79,152 for two years to March 2004 as per 4.4 above.
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.


Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
12 April 2002

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