

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: ADDICTIONS REFERENCE GROUP
From: JIM DICKIE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 9 TH MAY 2002	Ref: GMcI/LMcA	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Committee of the progress of the Addictions Reference Group.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In response to the problem of drug and alcohol misuse in North Lanarkshire, the Convener of Social Work requested the Vice Convener, Councillor Sullivan, to establish an Addictions Reference Group. The group was requested to undertake an examination of services which were available to individuals who have a substance misuse problem. The composition of the group consists of members of the Social Work Committee, who had expressed an interest in this area of work.

3. PROGRESS TO DATE

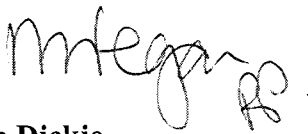
- 3.1. Since its formation, the Addictions Reference Group received three presentations on the following matters:
1. North Lanarkshire Council Service Provision.
 2. Lanarkshire Drug Action Team and Scottish Executive Targets.
 3. Young People.
- 3.2. Following the presentations the Addictions Reference Group established a programme of consultation visits. The programme to date consists of 13 consultation meetings with bodies such as voluntary agencies, service users, Lanarkshire Drug Service, Harm Reduction, Community Addiction Teams, Family Support Groups and Social Work Staff all of whom have a role to play in the Addictions field.
- 3.3. To date, nine of the consultation meetings have taken place. These meetings have been informative and have provided the opportunity for the members of the group to hear and see at first hand the services which are being provided in North Lanarkshire to assist individuals overcome problems with alcohol and drugs misuse.

4. FUTURE ACTION

- 4.1. The Addiction Reference Group will complete their programme of visits in May 2002. Thereafter the preliminary findings of the group will be prepared and shared with the groups and organisations which have been consulted. A report will be prepared for consideration by the Social Work Committee at its meeting in August 2002.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. Committee is requested to note the content of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
16 April 2002

For further information on this report please contact George McNally, Manager, Social Work Strategy (TEL: 01698 332554)