

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE – REVIEW OF TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR POST
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 9 MAY 2002	Ref: MF/MM	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To seek Committee approval to review the arrangements made for the post of Training Co-ordinator for the North Lanarkshire Council, Child Protection Committee.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The North Lanarkshire Council Child Protection Committee was established in June, 1996 following guidance from the Scottish Executive. The Committee is a multi-agency forum representing a range of agencies and Council Departments including Health, Police, Reporters Department, Legal Services, Housing, Community Services, Education and Social Work.
- 2.2 The function of the Committee is to ensure children within North Lanarkshire are safeguarded and protected from potential abuse.
- 2.3 A significant task of the Committee is to ensure that all Agencies and Departments undertake awareness training, specialist training in respect of individual Department's, Agencies and inter-agency training arrangements.
- 2.4 Social Work Committee of 23 August 2001 agreed part funding for the post of a Training Co-ordinator for the Child Protection Committee at PO5 level. Alongside this was support for the funding of a senior clerical assistant and costs for the servicing of the Child Protection Committee and the delivery of inter-agency training. This was consistent with the recommendations from the Scottish Executive and the proposals were ratified at the Children's Services Strategy Group in August 2001.

## 3. PROPOSALS/CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Following Committee approval for the part funding of the Training Co-ordinator's post, the post was advertised in the national press. To date it has not been possible to appoint a candidate with the required core competencies.
- 3.2 During the period since the post was agreed, there have been significant developments in the field of Child Protection.
- (i) A report was published into the death of a child in Dumfries and Galloway following ill treatment by her carers. (The findings of this report were presented to an earlier Committee.) The then Minister for Education and Young People, (now the First Minister), subsequently initiated an Audit into child protection arrangements across Scotland. This Audit was advised to the Operations and Services Sub Committee.

- (ii) The Audit of child protection is due to conclude in the Summer of 2002 and is expected to make a number of significant recommendations in respect of child protection practice across Scotland.
- (iii) A Public Inquiry is currently being held in England into the circumstances of the death of a child, who died whilst in the care of her aunt and her partner. It is expected that the findings and recommendations of this inquiry will have far reaching implications which are likely to be incorporated into practice, policy and possibly legislation in Scotland.
- (iv) An earlier unpublished review of the operation of Child Protection Committees undertaken at the request of the Scottish Executive is likely to be included within the findings of the Audit referred to in [ii] above.

3.3 As a result of the above developments, it is anticipated that the post of Training Co-ordinator will take on greater significance. Consequently, it is proposed that to ensure the recruitment of staff with the necessary competencies, the post be graded to PO8.

3.4 Costs for the original post are shared with Health, Education, Housing, Community Services and NHS Lanarkshire. These agencies support the proposals contained in this report.

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

4.1 The additional cost of the proposal can be met from existing Social Work budgets.

4.2 There are no legal issues and the post is consistent with Executive and Council policy.

#### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked to:

- (i) Approve the proposal to delete the existing post and create a new post of Child Protection Training Co-ordinator at Grade PO8.
- (ii) Remit the report to Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee for consideration.
- (iii) Note the contents of the report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**22 April 2002**

For further information on this report please contact Mary Fegan, Head of Social Work Services  
TEL: (01698 332001)