

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: Membership & Proposed Remit of Member/Officer Group on Children & Young Peoples Services
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
Date: 22 AUGUST 2002 Ref: MF/MM	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. Following agreement at Social Work Committee of 9th May 2002 to establish a Member/Officer Group on Children and Young Peoples Services, to seek homologation of the proposed remit for the group and to advise of the group membership. (attached as an appendix to this report)

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Social Work Committee of 9th May 2002 agreed that a Member/Officer group be established on Children and Young Peoples Services.
- 2.2. At Council on 20 June 2002 member and social work officer membership was agreed. Membership is detailed in the appendix attached to the report. Agreement was given to co-opt additional officers/others as required.
- 2.3. It was agreed that the group required to consider a number of key areas of children's services such as fostering, residential and throughcare since in the spectrum of provision, changes in one area of provision impacts on others.
- 2.4. It was also recognised that the member/officer group required to work in partnership with the Council's Children's Services Strategy Group which has a strategic planning remit for multi agency children's services in North Lanarkshire.

3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the following areas be highlighted for consideration by the group.
- (i) Audit the range of services available to young people in North Lanarkshire to include access criteria; targeting of services; gatekeeping arrangements.
 - (ii) Consider existing/required alternative family placements and to make recommendations for service developments.
 - (iii) Review assessment and care management responsibilities with a particular emphasis on
 - Roles and responsibilities of fieldwork; residential and independent sector staff
 - Care planning and implementation
 - (iv) Consider the nature and scale of the Council's residential child care sector, to include:
 - Nature; location; specialist/general provision
 - Organisational management arrangements
 - (v) Implications of National Standards for the Residential Child Care Sector
 - Recruitment/retention
 - Training needs of staff
 - Management expectations/roles and responsibilities
 - (vi) Overview the implementation of the new throughcare requirements/services

3.2 It is proposed that the contextual framework for the operation of the group includes the following.

- (i) To consider the most effective ways of progressing the corporate agenda as defined by the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995 to ensure that the Council fulfils its statutory responsibilities towards children and young people.
- (ii) To be informed by and progress the recommendations of "For Scotland's Children – Better Integrated Services – An Action Plan"
- (iii) To be informed by the views, experiences and aspirations of service users and carers in determining future approaches to service delivery
- (iv) To be informed by best practice and make recommendations to ensure services are designed to meet individual needs.
- (v) To consider the findings of the Scottish Institute for Residential Child Care report.
- (vi) To pay particular attention to having services in place which are part of a continuum care.
- (vii) To make recommendations for improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of residential and community based services provided or funded by North Lanarkshire Council and other relevant agencies.
- (viii) Ensure the arrangements are consistent with objectives of the Children's Services Plan Group.
- (ix) To examine and make recommendations on the range of services for young people in North Lanarkshire.

3.2.1. It is proposed that the group provides a report to Social Work Committee in February 2003, with regular update reports being provided to the Child Services Strategy group for information.

4. PERSONNEL/FINANCE/POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Implications are likely to arise from the recommendations of the final report which will be highlighted for Committee consideration.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) Agree the remit and contextual framework of the group outlined in section 3 of the report.
- (ii) Note the membership of the group detailed in the appendix to the report.
- (iii) Requests the Director of Social Work to submit a report to Committee in February 2003.
- (iv) Otherwise note the content of the report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
24 June 2002

For further information on this report please contact M. Fegan, Head of Social Work Services
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Appendix

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK

Membership of Member/Officer Group on Children and Young Peoples Services.

Elected Members

Councillor Harry McGuigan, Convener of Social Work
Councillor Peter Sullivan, Vice-Convener of Social Work
Councillor Tom Selfridge, Vice-Convener of Social Work
Councillor John Gordon
Councillor Jim Martin
Councillor Sam Love
Councillor Elizabeth Irvine
Councillor Jimmy Coyle
Councillor Jim McKinlay

Officer Membership

Head of Social Work Services
Manager, Children & Families/Criminal Justice
Co-Ordinator, Children & Families
Co-Ordinator, Youth Justice