

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS – PILOT YOUTH COURT HAMILTON SHERIFF COURT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 27 FEBRUARY 2003	Ref: JD/SD/MN	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To advise Committee of the Pilot Youth Court based at Hamilton and to seek approval for subsequent service developments in North Lanarkshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. "Community Sentencing, the Tough Option" was published by the Scottish Office in 1997 and set out the Government's commitment to promoting effective community based disposals for offenders as a "tough" alternative to prison.
- 2.2. COSLA and the Scottish Executive subsequently agreed that groupings of local authorities in partnership, or consortium format, could deliver economies of scale without fundamental erosion of local accountability.
- 2.3. North Lanarkshire is grouped with South Lanarkshire Council, with the elected member led Joint Planning Forum overseeing:
- Production and implementation of a Joint Criminal Justice Plan for Lanarkshire Social Work Services
 - Resource Allocation
 - Service developments and performance management
- 2.4. The first 3 year Joint Criminal Justice Plan was launched in June 2002 and outlines achievements and areas for future developments.
- 2.5. The Review of Youth Crime and the Executive's response was published in June 2000. As reported previously to Committee, the Review echoed "Tough Options" in terms of specifying the need for the development of a range of credible community based options as alternatives to custody or residential disposals, to reduce youth offending and contribute to community safety.
- 2.6. Financial resources were allocated to local authorities to progress the aims and objectives of the Review of Youth Crime. North Lanarkshire's allocation for 2002/03 is £357,000 rising to £714,000 in 2003/04. Service developments have previously been agreed by Committee.
- 2.7 In June 2002 the Scottish Executive announced its 10 Point Action Plan for Youth Crime. Action Point 2 proposed a Feasibility Study of a Pilot Youth Court to report to the Justice Minister by December 2002. The group included representation from Sheriffs, Procurators Fiscal, Reporters to the Children's Panel, the Chair of the Children's Panel, the Law Society, officials from Criminal Justice and Education Departments of the Scottish Executive, Police, Scottish Court Services, Victim Support and Social Work Senior Managers from North and South Lanarkshire.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. The group submitted their report to the Justice Minister in December 2002. On 27 January 2003 the Justice Minister announced the setting up of a Pilot Youth Court at Hamilton Sheriff Court. It is proposed the Youth Court will commence in April 2003.

3.2. The objectives of the Youth Court are:

- to reduce the frequency and seriousness of re-offending by persistent 16 and 17 year old offenders and some 15 year olds who are referred to the Court.
- to promote the social inclusion, citizenship and personal responsibility of these young offenders whilst maximising their potential.
- to establish fast-track procedures for those young offenders appearing before the Youth Court.
- to enhance community safety, by reducing the harm caused to individual victims of crime and providing respite to those communities which are experiencing high levels of crime.
- to test the viability and usefulness of a Youth Court using existing legislation and to demonstrate whether legislative and practical improvements might be appropriate.

3.3. The Youth Court has distinctive characteristics which include

- dedicated Youth Court Sheriffs with regular sentence oversight.
- multi-disciplinary teams to provide supervision of the young offenders.
- fast tracking of young offenders, including fast track breach procedures.
- dedicated Youth Court staff to support and service the Court.
- additional resources across agencies to enable provision of a quality and consistent service.
- formation of a 10 agency Youth Court Advisory Forum chaired by a Youth Court Sheriff to review the working and operation of the Youth Court.
- appointment of a full time Youth Court Co-ordinator.
- external research and evaluation of the Youth Court.

3.4 Agencies who would participate in the Youth Court were asked to identify resources which would be required for the Court's operation.

3.5 North and South Lanarkshire Social Work Departments submitted a bid to the Scottish Executive and the Grouping will receive an allocation of £1,405,000 for the year 2003/04. (The resources will be subject to ongoing review according to demand).

3.6. This allocation covers the following areas

- Support to Court and Screening Group.
- Assessment and case management.
- Programme delivery.
- Inclusion/desistance/relapse prevention
- Training and other support costs.

3.7. It is anticipated there will be some joint developments with South Lanarkshire Council which will include training, commissioning of services and the establishment of a small court team comprising a social worker, link health support worker and part-time community psychiatric nurse. Other resources will be used to "spot purchase" services for young offenders and some will be used to develop social work services for the Youth Court in North Lanarkshire.

3.8. In North Lanarkshire three social work area teams service the Court at Hamilton and will be involved in the Youth Court, Bellshill, Motherwell and Wishaw.

3.9. The full outline of the resources agreed for the Criminal Justice Grouping is attached as Appendix 1.

3.10 Case Management

- 3.10.1 It is proposed to create 2.5 qualified social worker posts Grade AP4/5/QSW (1 in Motherwell, 1 in Wishaw and 0.5 in Bellshill).
- 3.10.2 The social workers will have the case management role for the Youth Court providing initial assessments, reports and review reports to the Court, they will participate in planning and review meetings convened by the Sheriff, and will be responsible for ensuring access to programmes for young offenders. (National Objectives and Standards in Criminal Justice require a qualified social worker in this role.)
- 3.10.3 It is proposed to create 1.5 WTE posts of clerical assistants grade GS1/2 to support the work of the aforementioned social workers.

3.11 Programme Delivery

- 3.11.2 It is proposed to create 3 posts of groupworker (Youth Court) grade AP4/5/QSW with 7.5 % irregular hours allowance. The posts will deliver groupwork and individual programmes, based on "What Works" principles, for young people in the Youth Court.
- 3.11.3 Programmes targeting young women will be a priority in line with the recommendations of "A Safer Way – Working with Women Offenders". These posts will be aligned with the service at Community Alternatives @ Kirknowe. They will offer service outwith core working hours.
- 3.11.4 It is also proposed to create 2 posts of Placement Coaches Grade AP2/3 with weekend enhancement allowance. These posts will link the Restorative Justice Service (agreed by Committee in December 2002) and will take on roles of assessment support, confronting and motivating young people to participate successfully in restorative initiatives and community service.
- 3.11.5 It is proposed to use £60,000 to enhance intensive provision through individually tailored packages. This will allow for "spot purchase" of services for individual's packages of intervention.

3.12 Bail/Accommodation/Throughcare

- 3.12.1 It is proposed to develop a range of accommodation for young people on bail. In particular it is hoped to have contract carers in place who will operate a "Bail Fostering Scheme". Bail Fostering is not presently in operation in Scotland but has had positive outcomes in England and Wales. The resources available will allow for the development of an innovative service in place in North Lanarkshire.
- 3.12.2 It is proposed that this service be delivered by an external agency and approval is sought to commission a service up to the value of £200,000. Other resources will be used to develop throughcare support for young people in the Youth Court System.

4 FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Pilot Youth Court based at Hamilton has attracted resources to the Social Work Department to allow development of services for the Court.
- 4.2 The Tough Option Grouping has been awarded £1,405,000 to develop services. North Lanarkshire Council is to receive £625,000 with £160,000 for joint use.

4.3 It is proposed to:

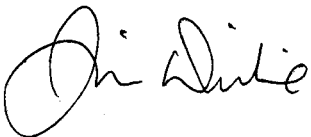
- Create 2.5 WTE posts of Social Workers (Youth Court) Grade AP4/5/QSW who will undertake the care management role.
- Create 3 WTE posts of Groupworker (Youth Court) grade AP4/5/QSW with 7.5 % irregular hours allowance. (A variety of relevant qualifications are appropriate for these posts).
- Create 2 WTE posts of Placement Coach Grade AP2/3 with a weekend enhancement allowance.
- Create 1.5 WTE posts of Clerical Assistant Grade GS1/2.
- Commission a Contract Carer/Bail Fostering service as part of services for young people on bail up to a value of £200,000 from the voluntary/ independent sector.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the recommendations of the report.
- (ii) Agree the establishment of posts detailed at paragraph 4.3;
 - Create 2.5 WTE posts of Social Workers Grade AP4/5/QSW.
 - Create 3 WTE posts of groupworker (Youth Court) grade AP4/5/QSW with 7.5 % irregular hour allowance.
 - Create 2 WTE posts of Placement Coach Grade AP2/3 with a weekend enhancement allowance.
 - Create 1.5 WTE posts of Clerical Assistant Grade GS1/2.
- (iii) Agree to commission a Contract Carer/Bail Fostering service
- (iv) Request the Director of Social Work to prepare a future report on progress of the Youth Court.
- (v) Remit to Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration
- (vi) Otherwise note the contents of the report.

A copy of the Youth Court Feasibility Project Report is available in the Members' library.



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Director of Social Work
14 February 2003

For further information on this report please contact Susan Devlin, Manager, Children and Families and Criminal Justice TEL: (01698 332032)

<u>SERVICE REQUIREMENT</u>	<u>JOINT BID</u>	<u>BID – South Lanarkshire</u>	<u>BID – North Lanarkshire</u>	<u>RESOURCE REQUIREMENT</u>
Support to Court and Screening Group	1 FTE Social Worker (£30,000); Access psychiatric support through court based CPN (would also provide advice and support to those on programmes (£35,000)	-	-	£65,000
Assessment and case management role*		5 FTE Social Workers	5 FTE Social Workers	£300,000 – Total (£150,000 NLC & £150,000 SLC)
Programme delivery**		Enhance existing groupwork provision; (£90,000) Enhance existing intensive support including access to out of hours support on individual basis (£100,000) Enhance restorative justice element (£50,000)	Enhance existing provision including services for young women (£100,000) Enhance intensive provision through individually tailored packages (£100,000) Enhance restorative justice element (£50,000)	£490,000 – total (£250,000 NLC & £240,000 SLC)
Inclusion/desistance agenda***	Link health support worker (£35,000)	Develop befriending volunteer support and throughcare support (£120,000); Social inclusion support (£30,000) Support to parents and carers (£30,000) Develop accommodation	Enhance existing service provision promoting healthy lifestyle (£40,000) Improve accommodation options including contract carers scheme (£260,000) Develop throughcare support (£100,000)	£765,000 – total (£400,000 NLC & £330,000 SLC)

		support including bail accommodation (£150,000)		
Training****	<p>Comprehensive training package including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-agency Youth Court Training • Multi-agency training on effective practice; • Multi-agency training on monitoring and evaluation; • Case management training for social workers; • Training on the management of change; • Programme(s) training (£75,000) 			£75,000
Other support costs*****		<p>This will include accommodation costs, and administrative support</p> <p>Accommodation (£55,000 including shared costs for services to Court)</p> <p>Admin and clerical support)2 admin, including one for court and 2 general clerical workers) (£75,000)</p>	<p>This will include accommodation costs, and administrative support</p> <p>Accommodation £55,000</p> <p>Admin and clerical - £35,000)</p>	£220,000 (£125,000 SLC; £90,000 NLC)
Total				£1,915,000

- * Based on anticipated 150 cases between both authorities and recognising that intensive support will limit caseloads to a maximum of 15
- ** Each authority will build on existing youth justice developments. It is however possible that some resources will be jointly commissioned.
- *** Preliminary discussion taken place with Lanarkshire NHS
- **** Training may involve whole court team
- ***** An element will be shared costs, particularly that providing direct support to the court.