

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: REMAND FOSTERING SCHEME – RESTRICTED TENDERING PROCESS
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 5 JUNE 2003	Ref: MH/MN	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. To seek Committee approval to proceed to a Restricted Tendering process for the award of a Remand Fostering Service.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. North and South Lanarkshire are piloting Youth Courts for 16 and 17 year olds. As a resource to this initiative, North Lanarkshire proposes to commission a Remand Fostering Scheme.
- 2.2. Remand Fostering is viewed as a positive alternative to custody. Research and experience indicate that the strongest influences on offending are low parental supervision, persistent truancy and associating with offenders. Rather than being placed and influenced by other offenders, young people on remand will be placed in a specialist foster placement outwith their own community.
- 2.3. This scheme is not an easy option. Conditions will be strictly adhered to and, unlike prison, the young person will be challenged on their attitudes and behaviour and will be required to take decisions and accept personal responsibility.
- 2.4. Intensive support packages are essential to the success of this type of scheme. These include
  - a) Structured programmes for the young person.
  - b) Careful monitoring of peer contact and contractual conditions.
  - c) Providing support and assistance to carers who will require assessment and training.
- 2.5. For the above reasons, coupled with public safety issues, the providers of this type of service require to have a proven track record in working with both young offenders and carers. Knowledge and experience of working in partnership with the Local Authority is essential particularly given the short timescales involved.
- 2.6. The following voluntary organisations have been identified as meeting the expertise criteria. These are Barnardos, National Children’s Homes, Includem.

**3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1. The Tendering Process will be conducted in accordance with the Council’s Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders applicable to Social Work. The exercise will be conducted under the Restricted Tendering Process rather than the Negotiated Tendering Process since the latter specifies “only one provider”. The tender will be awarded to one of three providers so Restricted Tendering is appropriate.

- 3.2. Each organisation will be invited to submit a Note of Interest. A Service Specification will then be drafted and each organisation will be invited to make a presentation to the Tender Panel.
- 3.3. Progress tracking of the tendering process will be monitoring by the Contracts Panel.

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

- 4.1. Committee has approved the use of designated Scottish Executive funding for the Scheme. The proposed contract commitment is up to £200,000 per annum for 2 years initially, but subject to annual review. The spend is likely to be incremental.
- 4.2. The requisite Financial Schedule will be developed in liaison with, and approved by the Finance Section prior to the issue of Tender Acceptance documentation. It is proposed to report to future Contracts Panel Meetings on progress.
- 4.3. Legal Services will be involved at each stage of the Tendering Process to ensure that all formalities have been undertaken in accordance with both Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders applicable to Social Work.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1. Committee is requested to:
  - (i) Approve the use of the Restricted Tendering process for the award of the Remand Fostering Scheme.
  - (ii) Request the Director of Social Work to prepare a future report detailing the progress of this Service; and
  - (iii) Otherwise note the contents of the report.



*pp* **Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**19 May 2003**

*For further information on this report please contact Susan Devlin, Manager Children & Families & Criminal Justice  
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