

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: YOUTH COURT - SERVICE DEVELOPMENT	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 28 AUGUST 2003	Ref: JD/SD/LG	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To advise Committee of the progress of the Youth Court at Hamilton and to seek approval for subsequent additional service development detailed with this report.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The establishment of the Pilot Youth Court at Hamilton Sheriff Court was previously reported to Committee in February 2003.
- 2.2. Committee approval was also given to the proposed service developments at that time.
- 2.3. In June 2003 the Scottish Executive confirmed a funding allocation to the Lanarkshire Joint Criminal Justice Grouping of £1,445,000 per annum.
- 2.4. The allocation covers the following areas
- Support to the Court
 - Assessment and case management
 - Programme delivery
 - Inclusion/desistance/relapse prevention
 - Training and other support costs

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. Since Committee approval in February 2003 work has been ongoing to implement the agreed service developments. Almost all of the social work department's posts have now been filled and other services are in the process of being commissioned.
- 3.2. The Youth Court Advisory Forum is in place and is chaired by Sheriff Neilson. North Lanarkshire Council is represented by the Manager, Children, Families and Justice.
- 3.3. The Youth Court had its' first sitting at Hamilton Sheriff Court on 2 June 2003.
- 3.4. In the first four weeks of the Court's operation the significant majority of the appearances (87.5%) were by young men from the North Lanarkshire area.

- 3.5. Initially the service developments proposed 2.5 WTE social workers to carry out the assessment and case management functions within Motherwell, Wishaw and Bellshill. At the time of this proposal the numbers for the Youth Court were difficult to predict and the Scottish Executive agreed to 2.5 WTE posts each for North and South Lanarkshire Councils.
- 3.6. This will be insufficient for North Lanarkshire. (It has also been difficult to recruit to 0.5 WTE post but the department has had recent success in recruiting for full time posts).
- 3.7. It is proposed to increase the 0.5 WTE post of social worker at Bellshill to 1 WTE post. (The Executive has agreed to this addition). This will bring the number of specific funded posts of social worker to three WTE.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. It is proposed to increase the 0.5 WTE to 1 WTE post of Social Worker Grade QSW located at Bellshill Area Team.
- 4.2. The cost of this increase will be met from the specific funding for the Youth Court from the Scottish Executive.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. Committee is asked to;
 - (i) agree the increase of the 0.5 WTE post of social worker to 1 WTE post of Social Worker at Bellshill Area Team
 - (ii) remit to Policy and Resources (Personnel) sub-committee for consideration
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report



Jim Dickie
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24 July 2003

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