

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: GROUP CONFERENCING – RESTRICTED TENDERING PROCESS
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 30 OCTOBER 2003	Ref: DM/AB	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for the appointment of SACRO to provide a group conferencing service as part of tackling the Youth Crime agenda in North Lanarkshire.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. As part of a range of services designed to address offending behaviour in young people, the Council was awarded Scottish Executive funding to develop a group conferencing scheme. This is a means of bringing together key people in the young person’s life, including, where appropriate, the victim of his/her crime. It is a model used successfully elsewhere in the world. Social Work Committee gave approval for a restricted tendering process for this service development from organisations with sufficient experience and expertise in this field.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. Expressions of interest were sought from four organisations deemed to meet the required criteria, two of whom – (SACRO and Barnardo’s) – tendered to provide the service.
- 3.2. Both organisations underwent a selection process the outcome of which is a recommendation to award the contract to SACRO.
- 3.3. As the value of the contract was fixed price was not the main determinant in the selection process. The criteria adopted related to issues such as: previous experience of delivering the service; flexibility and responsiveness; management arrangements; supervision and support; capacity to deal with contingencies; performance management; values and inclusiveness of approach.
- 3.4. SACRO scored higher in the assessment. The organisation already provide group conferencing in other parts of Scotland and have well developed training and support arrangements. They currently provide a small mediation and reparation scheme in North Lanarkshire and their proposals for group conferencing fit well with the existing service.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Funding of £143, 000 over a three year period, for group conferencing has been awarded by the Scottish Executive for this service.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) approve selection of SACRO to provide a group conferencing service; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
6 October 2003

For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Head of Social Work Development.
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