

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: SAFER HOMES INITIATIVE RAPID RESPONSE TEAM	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 15 JANUARY 2004	Ref: JD/GMcI/AP	

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the establishment of a Rapid Response Team to serve Social Work referrals to the Safer Homes Initiative.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Safer Homes project was established by the Council's Planning and Environment Department and formally launched in April 2001. It is an innovative multi-agency initiative aimed at creating employment opportunities in the community, and at the same time reducing crime, the fear of crime and accidents in the home.
- 2.2 Safer Homes project teams are made up of unemployed residents in target areas of North Lanarkshire. Through the Safer Homes project, and under the supervision of The Wise Group, project participants gain training and skills to help them access future employment.
- 2.3 The success of the project has resulted in rapid growth, leading to the establishment of a number of teams, including Rapid Response Teams.
- 2.4 Social Work Strategy Section is involved in discussions with the Planning and Environment Department following a joint project development seminar held between the departments in April 2003. The seminar has led to a number of joint initiatives, one of which is the development of a direct referral route to the Safer Homes Initiative for Social Work Service users

**3. Proposal/Considerations**

- 3.1 A recent development has been the offer of a dedicated Safer Homes Rapid Response Team to deliver a priority service on referrals from Social Work. The service should particularly benefit vulnerable service users where safety or security is an issue. Following a referral the service user will be visited for the purpose of a safety or security assessment.

3.2 The Safer Homes Project can then install a range of safety equipment to reduce the risk of injury from accident or fire. The equipment recommended by the Safer Homes representative will vary, depending upon personal circumstances and can include:

- **Extendible fireguard**
- **Side opening stairgate**
- **Home Safety Starter Pack**
- **Carpet grips**
- **Dusk to Dawn light**
- **Non-slip bath mat**
- **Smoke alarm batteries**
- **10-year battery smoke alarm**

Safer Homes can also check the safety of existing household appliances.

3.3 In relation to security issues the Safer Homes initiative can fit some simple yet effective equipment including:

- **Mortice locks**
- **Door Viewer**
- **Door chain**
- **Door bolts**
- **Various security alarms.**

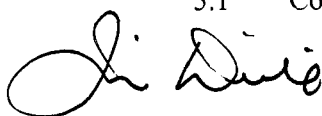
3.4 The Social Work referral programme for the Rapid Response Team was launched in Central Division in November 2003 and will be rolled out to the other Divisions in successive months.

#### **4. Financial/Personnel/legal/Policy Implications**

4.1 There are no personnel, financial, legal or policy implications for the Department in relation to the content of this report.

#### **5. Recommendations**

5.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**4 December 2003**

*For further information on this report please contact G McNally, Manger, Strategy TEL: (01698 332555)*