

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: MODERNISATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL HOMES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 15 JANUARY 2004	Ref: KS/JD	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

1.1. This report advises Committee on the progress made to modernise provision of care, for children and young people who need to be looked after and accommodated in a residential setting, in North Lanarkshire.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. A Report entitled "The Modernisation Of Children's Homes In North Lanarkshire", was approved by the Social Work Committee, on 30th October 2003. The objectives of this plan are:-

- To progressively create more community based alternatives to residential care
- To reduce the overall number of residential care home places.
- To build two new homes to high quality design specifications
- To reconfigure existing provision so that over time, no home will have more than six places
- To produce a more appropriate geographical spread of services across North Lanarkshire.

2.2. The plan to modernise the children's homes in North Lanarkshire is set out in four phases.

Phase 1 - The replacement of Cecil Street with a five bedded unit at the vacant former respite Care unit at Buchanan Street, Coatbridge.

Phase 2 - The relocation of day services currently provided on the Kirknowe site in Wishaw, to Cecil Street Coatbridge, (currently a residential children's unit) and the creation of a new purpose built six bedded unit on the Kirknowe site.

Phase 3 - A new purpose built six-bedded unit on a site in Cumbernauld, to replace Pine Court Children's Unit.

Phase 4 - Future implementation of incremental plans, to reconfigure the remaining residential care provision, in keeping with the principles and Philosophy, set out in the plan.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 A critical path and action plan has been agreed by all parties to implement Phase 1, 2 and 3 of the plan to modernise Children's Homes in North Lanarkshire. The action plan addresses - the location, size and design of proposed buildings, management and staffing arrangements, new working practices and a plan for consultation with children and their families, managers, staff, neighbours and community representatives.
- 3.2 **Phase 1** - The relocation of Cecil Street Children's Home. Onsite work at Buchanan Street is scheduled to begin in January 2004 and be completed by April/May 2004. This will facilitate the relocation of residents and staff in Cecil Street Children's Home, to a five bedded Children's Home in Buchanan Street Coatbridge, or, to other appropriate sites/locations, by May 2004.
- 3.3 **Phase 2** - The refurbishment of Cecil Street for the relocation of day services currently provided on the Kirknowe site is scheduled to begin in June 2004 and completion is planned by October 2004. This will facilitate the relocation of the new day services, to Cecil Street, Coatbridge by November 2004.
- 3.4 Onsite work at Kirknowe, Wishaw to build a new 6 bedded Children's Home is scheduled to begin in November 2004, with completion due by May 2005.
- 3.5 **Phase 3** - The identification of a site in Cumbernauld to build a new 6 bedded Children's Home to replace Pine Court Children's Home is being prioritised and at present the options appraisal and benefits criteria is being applied to each potential site. Three new sites are being considered at present.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the proposed developments has been set aside in the Council's capital plan for years 2003/4 – 2005/6 (inclusive).
- 4.2 There are no other financial costs or considerations, envisaged at this stage of the planning.
- 4.3 Future progress reports will be submitted to Committee, with regard to costs and further developments as a matter of course.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Committee is asked to:
- i) note the content of this report; and
 - ii) seek future reports on progress



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
2nd December 2003

For further information on this report, please contact Bobby Miller, Development Manager Tel. No. 01698 332286