

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS – SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE YOUTH JUSTICE / ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR RESOURCES 2004- 2006
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 20 MAY 2004	Ref: JD/SD/JS	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To inform Committee of new Youth Justice/Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) Resources 2004/05 and 2005/06 made available by the Scottish Executive.
- 1.2. To seek Committee agreement for proposed service developments using these resources.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The review of Youth Crime and the Executive's response was published in June 2002. The review echoed "Tough Options" in terms of specifying the need for the development of a range of credible community based options as alternatives to custody or residential disposals to reduce youth offending and contribute to community safety.
- 2.2. The Scottish Executive published its consultation document "Putting Our Communities First" in June 2003. Subsequently the Anti Social Behaviour (Scotland) Bill was introduced to Parliament on 29 October 2003.
- 2.3. The proposals specific to work with young people include;
 - Community Reparation Orders
 - Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC)
 - Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's)
 - Greater use of reparation in the Children's Hearing System
 - Electronic monitoring of those under 16 years
 - Parenting Orders
- 2.4. The Executive announced on 19 March 2004 additional resources to tackle youth offending and anti social behaviour.
- 2.5. The funds are distributed thus

Initiative	2004-05	2005-06	TOTAL
Restorative Justice	£1.5m	£1.5	£3m
Local Action Fund (for Community Safety Partnerships)	£5m	£5m	£10m
Programmes to support under 16's on ASBO's	£1m	£2m	£3m
Implementation of Youth Justice National	£1.5	£1.5	£3m

Standards			
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3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. North Lanarkshire will receive

Initiative	2004-05	2005-06
Restorative Justice	107,000	104,000
Local Action Fund	358,000	348,000
Programmes for under 16 years on ASBO's	72,000	140,000
Implementation of National Standards	107,000	104,000
TOTAL	644,000	696,000

3.2. The purpose of the new funds are:

- To double the number of restorative justice places, from 3000 to 6000 places, including expansion of restorative justice practice in the range of services available to young people who offend.
- To provide a range of local activities for young people.
- To provide, where appropriate, additional programmes through the children's hearing system for young people who are subject to an anti-social behaviour order.
- To support youth justice teams achieve the implementation of national standards for youth justice by 2006.

3.3 The multi-agency Youth Justice Strategy groups in authorities will be charged with co-ordinating the administration of the money at a local level – in North Lanarkshire this is the Youth Justice Forum. The exception to this is the Local Action Fund where the Community Safety Partnership will be changed with the administration of the fund.

3.4 Restorative Justice

3.4.1 There are currently services offering restorative justice in North Lanarkshire, the Youth Justice element of Restorative Justice Service, SACRO Mediation and Reparation Service and the recently commissioned SACRO Group Conferencing Service.

3.4.2 These services are all relatively recent and places are limited. Restoration and reparation are critical elements of work with young offenders and the principles of restorative justice are being shown as significant in impacting on, victim satisfaction with the process, perpetrators attitude and behaviour.

3.4.3 Restorative practice principles are being shown to be beneficial in a range of children's services such as groupwork, family work and within residential children's units. A recent evaluation by the University of Hertfordshire shows significant improvements in residents behaviour, staff intervention and the unit culture of the unit in Hertfordshire.

3.4.4 It will be important for staff working in a range of services with young people to understand and use restorative justice practice and principles.

3.4.5 The training purchased will be specific to young people and has specific reference to looked after children. The company Walker, Richardson and Walker have proven backgrounds in the approach and are highly regarded in England and Wales. Where restorative justice has been developing for a few years. (The programme developed by this company is the only programme in existence for looked after children).

3.4.6 The training will consist of:

- Purchase of programme and licence

- Training course for Buchanan Street Children's Unit Staff group (as part of induction, development, culture setting)
- Training for trainers course for 12 participants across a range of children's services
- Roll out of training to appropriate staff
- Coaching, monitoring and review

3.4.7 There is a need to further enhance Community Alternatives at Kirkknowe to offer restorative justice as part of their core programme and will include the running of conferences. The service roll out across the Department will also be overseen and co-ordinated at Community Alternatives. It is appropriate to target this service because of its service users, intensive service, Authority wide remit, links to Youth Justice and Youth Court Services.

3.4.8 As part of the service enhancement it is proposed to create:

- 1 post of Team Leader grade PO2/5 who will have operational responsibility for the development of restorative justice approaches at Community Alternatives at Kirkknowe. The manager will also become one of the Departmental trainers. This post will link with the Restorative Justice Service managed in adult justice services
- 2 posts of Social Work Assistant grade AP2/3 who will be required to work some weekends as part of a rota. Community Alternatives offers a seven day service and the additional staff will allow the expansion of this service.

3.4.9 It is also proposed to fund an element of Strathclyde Police's roll out of Restorative Cautioning in 'N' Division. Social Work staff are also involved in joint initiatives with Education Department as they develop restorative cautioning.

3.5 Programmes to support under 16's subject to Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO's)

3.5.1 The Scottish Executive suggest that local authorities should plan programmes taking account of the availability of existing programmes, local needs and patterns of offending.

3.5.2 The Department is currently reviewing its Young People's Support Units with a view to reshaping this service to meet local need. At present there is little equity of service across the Authority. It is anticipated that Young People's Support Units should be working with young people who are "in need", on supervision or likely to be made subject to ASBO's.

3.5.3 The review will conclude in the summer of 2004. It is anticipated that proposals for the future of the service will be brought forward to Committee in August 2004. If appropriate the additional resources will be used to implement the review.

3.6 Implementation of National Standards

3.6.1 The Young Justice Forum is currently working towards implementation of National Standards in North Lanarkshire 2006. There has been significant growth in youth justice services and resources and this is a high priority for the Executive, the Council and partners.

3.6.2 There is significant work led by the Youth Justice Forum required in order that North Lanarkshire can implement the standards. This includes achieving:

- Comprehensive service planning to prevent youth offending, divert young offenders and stop re-offending among those already reported to the police;
- A reduction in the number of days from the offence referral to the Reporter to implementation of a hearing disposal to 80 days;

- A comprehensive assessment delivered on time to the hearing, with the young person's case worker in attendance at the hearing. This should be reviewed at regular intervals;
- A range of programmes in place to meet the area's needs and available for every young person to ensure that every supervision requirement can be implemented;
- Improved throughcare and aftercare planning for every young person in secure accommodation;
- Improved communications, including an annual report with a range of stakeholder including local communities; and
- Central support will continue for a range of national initiatives, such as accreditation. However, the purpose of this allocation is to enable local youth justice teams to work creatively on local plans to ensure national standards can be achieved by 2006. Youth Justice teams will be asked to report on the use of this allocation in their annual reports.

3.6.3 In North Lanarkshire Youth Crime/Justice monies have gone into service development such as area youth justice teams, purchasing of intensive services, development and reshaping of existing services to be more responsive and focused to young people involved in offending.

3.6.4 The implementation of National Standards requires additional resources particularly focussing on:

- Quality
- Performance
- Programme development
- Communication and information sharing across partners including
- Support to the Youth Justice Forum (North Lanarkshire multi-agency team)
- Preparation for accreditation
- Service planning

3.6.5 With this in mind it is proposed to:

- Create 1 post Service Co-ordinator Youth Justice Grade PO8
- Create 1 post of Resource Worker Youth Justice Grade AP4/5
- Create 1 post of Clerical Assistant / Typist, Grade GS 1/2

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 It is proposed to address the Restorative Justice and National Standard elements of the resources in this committee report

4.2 Restorative Justice

4.2.1 It is proposed:

- Create 1 post of Team Leader, Restorative Justice, Grade PO2/5, to be located at Community Alternatives, Kirkknowe.
- Create 2 posts of Social work assistant Grade AP2/3 with Irregular Hours and Weekend working, located at Community Alternatives.
- Commission a Restorative Justice training programme and develop an in house training programme to ensure its availability of restorative approaches across a range of services
- Contribute to Strathclyde Police Restorative Cautioning roll out in 'N' Division

4.3 National Standards

4.3.1 It is proposed to:

- Create 1 post Service Co-ordinator Youth Justice Grade PO8
- Create 1 post Resource Worker Youth Justice AP4/5
- Create 1 post of Clerical Assistant / Typist, Grade GS 1/2

4.4 Anti Social Behaviour Orders for under 16 years. A future report will be brought to Committee outlining purposes for these resources.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to:-

- (i) Agree the service developments proposed in the report
- (ii) Create the posts outlined in paragraph 4.2.1 and 4.3.1
 - Create 1 post Service Co-ordinator Youth Justice Grade PO8
 - Create 1 post of Resource Worker Youth Justice Grade AP4/5
 - Create 1 post of Clerical Assistant / Typist, Grade GS 1/2
 - Create 1 post of Team leader, Restorative Justice, Grade PO2/5
 - Create 2 posts of Social work assistant Grade AP2/3 with Irregular Hours and Weekend Enhancement.
- (iii) Agree the restorative justice proposals outlined:
 - Commission a Restorative Justice Training programme to ensure its availability of restorative approaches across a range of services
 - Contribute to Strathclyde Police Restorative Cautioning roll out in 'N' Division
- (iv) Request a future report on proposals for services to offer programmes to under 16years on Anti Social Behaviour Orders
- (v) Remit this report to Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee for consideration.
- (vi) Otherwise note the contents of the report


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