

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: REGISTRATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES WORKFORCE	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
Date: 28 October 2004	Ref:		

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the process of the registration of the Social Services Workforce as it is being implemented within North Lanarkshire Council

2. Background

- 2.1. A report has previously been submitted to Committee outlining the proposed agenda of the Scottish Social Services Council in the registration of the social services workforce. This informed Committee of the various stages of implementation of registration requirements.
- 2.2 Staff who require to register and either choose not to register or who do not meet registration requirements will be unable to remain in practice after the due date. To support staff who require to obtain a relevant qualification, e.g. in residential care, training arrangements have been put in place to allow staff to meet registration requirements within the required timescales.
- 2.3 Registration for the first group of staff - those who already hold a Social Work qualification - is scheduled to commence in October 2004 within North Lanarkshire Council
- 2.2. Members of the Scottish Social Services Council will carry out a series of 8 briefings, to be held on 25th October and 2nd November, 2004.
- 2.4 All eligible staff are being encouraged to attend these briefings and will be issued with their registration packs on these dates
- 2.5 Staff are being encouraged to complete the registration process by mid—December 2004.
- 2.6 The Scottish Social Services Council have also offered to provide a one hour briefing for elected members.

3. Implications for North Lanarkshire

- 3.1 For this first stage of the registration process, the Council will meet the cost of Disclosure Scotland checks required. This cost can be met from Departmental budgets.
- 3.2 Individual members of staff will meet the cost of registration, as this is personal to them and not the employer.

- 3.3 The ongoing training costs for wider groups of staff, who will require to register in later phases of the process have been built into the training budget for the Department.

Recommendation

4.1 Committee is asked to:

- i) note the contents of this report
- ii) remit the report to Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee for information
- iii) consider the offer of a briefing by the Social Services Council in relation to the regulation of the Social Services Workforce.



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Director of Social Work
28 September 2004

For further information on this report please contact John Scott, Manager of Resources and Information on telephone 01698 332037.