

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: SOCIAL WORK WITHIN NORTH LANARKSHIRE SCHOOLS – ROLL OUT OF THE INTEGRATED SCHOOLS APPROACH
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 28 OCTOBER 2004	Ref: LB/JH	

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

- 1.1 To advise Committee of North Lanarkshire Social Work Department's contribution to the Integrated Schools Approach and seek authorisation to confirm the groupworker's posts agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee on 18 June 2003 as permanent posts within Social Work.

2. Background

- 2.1. In November 1998, the Secretary of State outlined the Governments intention to pilot a "New Community Schools" initiative to promote social inclusion and raise educational standards.
- 2.2. Within North Lanarkshire, the Education Department leads on Community Schools and following Committee agreement in June 2003 it was agreed that this approach be rolled out to all schools within North Lanarkshire.
- 2.3. In promoting a multi-agency, one door approach, finance from the Scottish Executive was awarded to Education to create Social Work groupworker posts to provide services across the Authority to all schools and it was agreed that staff would be recruited on a phased basis over the years to a total of 12 by 2005/6.
- 2.4 The current phasing for the posts is as follows:
- 2003/2004 – 4 posts
2004/2005 – 3 posts
2005/2006 – 5 posts
- The salary level for the posts have previously been agreed at APIV/V/QSW
- 2.5 Funding is from the National Priorities Action Fund which presently has been confirmed up to March 2006. The expected announcement from the Executive due in November 2004 will deal with future years. However, should funding be removed the post-holders would be re-deployed into mainline Social Work Services..
- 2.6 The Social Work groupwork posts will form part of this integrated multi-agency approach, offering individual as well as groupwork support to children and their families who have been identified as 'vulnerable' or who may be looked after, or looked after and accommodated.

3. Proposals/ Considerations

- 3.1. It is proposed that the current 4 temporary groupworker posts at grade APIV/V/QSW and the additional 8 proposed groupworker posts at grade APIV/V/QSW be added to the Social Work establishment as permanent posts

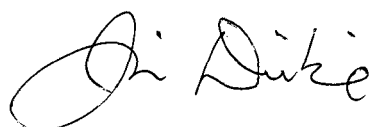
4. Financial/ Personnel/ Legal/ Policy Implications

- 4.1. The posts will be funded by monies from the Scottish Executive to the Council's Education Department which are located in that Department's budget.
- 4.2. Transport, administrative support and associated costs will be subsumed by the Social Work Department as part of an 'in kind' contribution to the service. Funding for these services are located within the Social Work budget.
- 4.3. These posts will form part of the Social Work Department's strategic planning and service developments in terms of early intervention and better integrated children's services.

5. Recommendations

Committee is asked to:

- 5.1. Note the Social Work Department's role in the roll-out of the Integrated Schools Approach
- 5.2. Agree that Social Work can convert the temporary posts of groupworker at grade APIV/V/QSW to permanent posts in the Social Work establishment.
- 5.3. Agree to establish 8 groupworker posts at grade APIV/V/QSW to be added to the Social Work establishment.
- 5.4. Remit to Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration and Education Committee for information.
- 5.5. Otherwise note the content of the report.



**Director of Social Work
10 September 2004**

For further information on this report please contact Linda Brown, Co-ordinator, Community Resources TEL: (01698 332045)