

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: 21 <sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SOCIAL WORK – SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE REVIEW
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 28 OCTOBER 2004	Ref: dm	

**1. Purpose of Report**

This report advises Committee of a national review of Social Work - "21<sup>st</sup> Century Social Work"- being undertaken by the Scottish Executive.

**2. Background**

- 2.1. Following a report into systematic abuse suffered by a woman with learning disabilities in Scottish Borders, Peter Peacock, the Minister for Education and Young People announced that the Executive intended to take a "fundamental look at Social Work."
- 2.2. On 1 July the Minister announced the remit for a review group to develop a clear direction for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Social Work. The review is taking place in the context of a policy drive towards integrated working in all children's services, community care and justice.

**3. Remit and Membership**

- 3.1. The group has ten members, two of whom work in local authority Social Work. Other organisations represented include the Scottish Children's Reporters Administration, the Police and NHS Scotland. It is chaired by William Roe, Chairman of Rocket Science Ltd, a consulting company, and is expected to conclude most of its work within a year.
- 3.2. Their remit is extremely broad and consists of a number of themes, including:
  - The task of the social worker
  - The central purpose and function of Social Work
  - Delivery of integrated services
  - Quality assurance frameworks
  - Leadership and management of the profession
  - Capacity of the profession

- The legislative framework

3.3. Establishing the review is a highly significant development that may have potentially far-reaching implications for the delivery of Social Work services in Scotland. It poses questions such as "are local authorities always the best organisation to deliver (Social Work) services?" It will therefore be important that North Lanarkshire Council responds to the work of the review group as it emerges in the coming months.

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

4.1. Any implications of the Review are not known at this early stage.

#### **5. Recommendations**

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the national review of Social Work being undertaken by the Scottish Executive; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**27 September 2004**

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