

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: JUSTICE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT - THROUGH-CARE PHASE 2, VOLUNTARY ASSISTANCE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 25 AUGUST 2005	Ref: JS/JS	

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

To inform Committee of service developments in relation to Justice Throughcare Services and to seek agreement to implement the proposals contained within the report.

2. Background

- 2.1. Justice Throughcare Services are provided by the Council in line with its statutory duties and powers as defined in the Prisoners and Criminal Procedures (Scotland) Act 1993, National Objectives and Standards for Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System (Throughcare 1997) and Throughcare Provision for Throughcare Services – Guidance for Social Work Services (2003).
- 2.2. In 2003 the Scottish Executive announced additional annual revenue support for Throughcare Services and North Lanarkshire submitted a Throughcare Strategic Plan on behalf of the Lanarkshire Joint Criminal Justice Grouping. The Strategic Plan was agreed by Committee in June 2003.
- 2.3. The Scottish Executive accepted the Lanarkshire Plan and a Throughcare Team was set up to offer a service to all offenders returning to Lanarkshire who were serving sentences of 4 years or more. This team has been operational since April 2004.
- 2.4. In 2004 the Scottish Executive announced additional revenue for Throughcare Phase 2 of the Throughcare Developments. This was to offer a Throughcare Service for offenders serving short term sentences and invited plans for developing this service.
- 2.5. At the end of January 2005 the Scottish Executive approved the Lanarkshire Grouping Phase 2 Plan.
- 2.6. In March 2005 the priority groups identified for voluntary assistance in the original Phase 2 guidance were revised by the Scottish Executive.
- 2.7. The Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Joint Planning Forum of 26 July 2005 considered and accepted the proposed service developments outlined in this report.

3. Proposals / Considerations

- 3.1. The proposals in the Phase 2 plan seek to complement the work of the Grouping's established Throughcare Team located in and managed by North Lanarkshire.
- 3.2. The priorities for the service as detailed in the plan are:-
- High risk offenders not subject to Statutory Supervision on release.
 - Young offenders between 16-21 years
 - All women sentenced to short term imprisonment.
 - Offenders sentenced to crimes relating to domestic abuse.
 - Offenders committed to addressing their behaviour whilst in prison or to pursue offers of assistance under the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) transitional case scheme.
- 3.3 The revised priorities identified by the Scottish Executive are:
- High Risk Offenders (sex offenders and recurrent violent offenders)
 - Throughcare addiction service offenders
- 3.4 The Scottish Executive agreed the priorities group identified within the plan (3.2 above) would still be relevant in relation to the new priorities and no updated plan was required to be submitted.
- 3.5 In order to provide the extended service, additional resources are required and have been agreed by the Scottish Executive.

4. Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications

- 4.1. The following posts are required to implement Phase 2; The Scottish Executive has committed additional revenue support to fund the service.
- 1 Social Worker (Throughcare), grade QSW
 - 2 Social Work Assistants (Throughcare), grade AP2/3
 - 1 Clerical Assistant/Typist, grade GS1/2
- 4.2. The funding from the Scottish Executive for this proposal is recurring funding specified solely for this purpose - £100,364.
- 4.3 All the posts will be located within the Justice Throughcare Team currently located at the Social Work Headquarters, Motherwell.

5. Recommendations

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- i) agree the proposals in relation to Throughcare Phase 2 developments.
- ii) Note that the Scottish Executive has committed the necessary additional revenue support to fund this development.
- iii) Note that the report has been presented to and agreed by the Lanarkshire Criminal Justice Joint Planning Forum.
- iv) Remit the proposals to Policy and Resources (Personnel Sub) Committee for their consideration.
- v) Otherwise note the contents of the report.



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2 August 2005

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