

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: JUSTICE SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS - RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 25 AUGUST 2005	Ref: JD/JS	

**1. Purpose of Report / Introduction**

- 1.1. To seek committee approval for the proposed service developments in Restorative Justice.
- 1.2. These developments relate to three specific areas:
  - Divert Initiative
  - Move to new premises
  - Increase in demand for Community Service Orders

**2. Background**

- 2.1. The Divert project identifies and provides individualised programmes for young people aged 16-21 on the fringes of criminal behaviour through drugs misuse.
- 2.2. This initiative was a result of a partnership bid by North Lanarkshire Council Justice Services, the Procurator Fiscal's Office at Airdrie Sheriff Court and Apex (a voluntary organisation involved in work with offenders).
- 2.3. In March 2004 Committee were informed that the New Opportunities Fund, Better Off Programme awarded a grant of £334,473 to fund the Divert project until March 2008.

**New Premises**

- 2.4. Restorative Justice provides a range of services including community service and groupwork programmes which operate outwith office hours on a 7 day basis.
- 2.5. Restorative Justice is currently located within Alexander Resource Centre, Coatbridge, where there is caretaking cover 7 days a week from 7am until 10pm.
- 2.6. On 8 August 2005 Restorative Justice is relocating to refurbished premises at 2 Hunter Street, Bellshill where there are no caretaker facilities.

### **Community Service Orders**

- 2.7. The increased use by the Judiciary of community disposals has led to a significant year on year growth of community service orders. In the last 5 years there has been a 74% increase in referrals to the service, for example, in 2000/1 363 were made compared to 634 in 2004/05.

### **3. Proposals / Considerations**

#### **Divert**

- 3.1. As part of the original submission to the New Opportunities Fund (now known as the Big Lottery) funding for a Social Work Assistant was identified as necessary to assess referrals from the Procurator Fiscal to Apex and also to provide progress reports for the partnership.
- 3.2. Funding has been provided from the Big Lottery to meet the cost of this post.
- 3.3 It is proposed to create a temporary post of
- Social Work Assistant, Grade, AP2/3 , for 2 years

#### **New Premises**

- 3.4 Given the out of hours work carried out by the Restorative Justice Team coupled with the workshop facilities at Hunter Street it is viewed necessary in terms of staff safety and security to ensure that there is caretaker provision.
- 3.5 It is proposed to create a post of
- Caretaker, Grade, Manual Worker 3

#### **Community Service**

- 3.6 There is a requirement for additional community service supervisors to meet the growth in demand for placements, for example in April 2005 890 attended for community service.
- 3.7 To meet current and future demands for placements, it is proposed to create
- 2 Community Service Work Supervisors posts at AP1 Grade (pro-rata) with weekend enhancements.

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

- 4.1. The proposals will allow Restorative Justice to strengthen its services in relation to Divert, out of hours work and throughput in terms of community service orders.
- 4.2. Funding for the Social Work Assistant post for the Divert scheme is provided by funding from the Big Lottery at a cost of £25,284

4.3 The proposed developments outlined in paragraph 3.4 and 3.6, are as follows:

- Create post of Social Work Assistant, Grade, AP2/3 (£25,284)
- Create post of Caretaker, Grade, Manual Worker 3 (£13,472)
- Create 2 posts of Community Service Work Supervisors, Grade, AP1 Grade (pro-rata) with weekend enhancement (£20,844)

4.4 Funding is on a recurring basis within ring-fenced criminal justice funding from the Scottish Executive.

## 5. Recommendations

5.1. The Committee is asked to:

- i) agree the proposals outlined in the report
- ii) agree the establishment of the following posts
  - 1 post of Caretaker, Grade Manual Worker 3
  - 2 posts of Community Service Work Supervisors, AP1 Grades
  - 1 post of Social Work Assistant, Grade AP2/3
- iii) request the Director of Social Work to prepare a report detailing the progress of the developments of the service.
- iv) remit this to Policy and Resources (Personnel Sub) Committee for their consideration
- v) Otherwise note the report



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**2 August 2005**

Further information can be obtained from Jim Scullion, Service Manager, Justice Section HQ  
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