

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: PROTECTION OF TITLE OF SOCIAL WORKER AND REGISTRATION OF CHILD CARE WORKFORCE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
Date: 27 OCTOBER 2005      Ref: AJ/AB	

**1. Purpose of Report/Introduction**

This report updates Committee on the current registration process for the Social Care Workforce with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Registration is a major part of the drive for higher standards in social services and brings the workforce in line with other professional colleagues. It will increase the protection of people who use social services, helping employers to ensure that only suitable people are employed and retained in the social service workforce.
- 2.2 To register a worker must satisfy a number of criteria. These include holding the appropriate qualifications for the job they do and being able to give evidence of good character.
- 2.3 The first group of staff to register were social workers.
- 2.4 On 1 September 2005, legislation to protect the title "social worker" was enacted. In effect this means that anyone operating as a social worker or in a post that requires a social work qualification must be registered with the SSSC.
- 2.5 All staff who come under this category within North Lanarkshire Council have either completed registration or the process is underway. The Department will not be able to employ staff who do not have SSSC registration. Student social workers are required to registered on completion of their qualification.
- 2.6 The second group of staff who require to register, are staff providing residential child care services.
- 2.7 Registration dates are as follows:
  - Unit Managers registration commenced in July 2005
  - Registration of residential child care workers with supervisory responsibilities will begin in October 2005
  - Registration of all other residential child care workers will begin in July 2006.

- 2.8 Where residential child care workers do not hold the appropriate qualification they will be registered subject to the condition that they achieve the qualifications within three years of registration.
- 2.9 The Department has been working on a plan since the qualification criteria were announced to ensure all residential child care staff have the opportunity to achieve the requisite qualification for their post.
- 2.10 The requirement to register with the SSSC will be rolled out to staff in other care groups.

3. **Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications**

- 3.1. There are no current personnel or financial implications in this report.

4. **Recommendation**

Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**7 October, 2005**

*For further information on this report please contact A Jack Service Manager, telephone 01698 338621*