

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: JUSTICE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT – HOME DETENTION CURFEWS	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 24 AUGUST 2006	Ref: LC/JS	

1 Purpose of Report/Introduction

To seek committee approval for the proposed service development in relation to Home Detention Curfews within Justice Throughcare services.

2 Background

- 2.1 Criminal 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 and the Management of offenders Bill (Scotland) Act 2005. Throughcare Provision for Throughcare Services – Guidance for Social Work Services (2003) informs the service. North Lanarkshire provides the Throughcare service for the Lanarkshire Justice Grouping.
- 2.2. Justice Services are centrally funded by the Scottish Executive.
- 2.3. The Throughcare team was set up to offer a service to all offenders returning to Lanarkshire who were serving sentences of four 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 of under four years. The Throughcare team has been delivering Phase 2 services since July 2005.

3. Considerations

- 3.1 In April 2006, the Scottish Executive announced the implementation of Home Detention Curfews. Prisoners serving more than three months and up to four years will be considered following assessment.
- 3.2 **The Management of Offenders Act (Scotland) 2005** contains provision to establish a Home Detention Curfew scheme. This is a system of early release on licence for low risk prisoners. The offender is subject to a curfew requirement and compliance with this will be monitored by remote monitoring more commonly known as 'tagging'. This will restrict the prisoner to their home between specific times. Failure to comply will result in recall into custody. The aim of this is to allow a better reintegration of offenders into communities and to reduce the number of offenders detained in prisons.

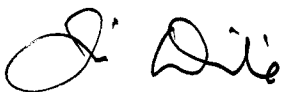
- 3.3 It is proposed that the Throughcare team will have responsibility for the development of Home Detention Curfews services for the Lanarkshire Justice Grouping.
- 3.4 In order to provide the above service the Scottish Executive has provided additional resources of £38,803 for the Lanarkshire grouping. The primary task will be to provide the Scottish Prison service with Home Circumstance reports on prisoners they consider eligible for the scheme. The decision on who is eligible for a Home Detention Curfew lies exclusively with the Scottish Prison Service, who will manage the scheme.
- 3.5 It was anticipated that approximalty 4 prisoners would require an assessment for a Home Detention Curfew each week within the Lanarkshire area. During the six week period from 23 June 2006 and 2 August 2006, 50 requests were received which is significantly more than anticipated

4 Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications

- 4.1 The following post is required to implement the statutory responsibilities for Home Detention Curfews. The Scottish Executive has committed additional revenue support to fund the service.
- 1 Social Worker 17.5 hours, QSW
- 4.2 The post will be located within the Throughcare team.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 Committee is asked to
- (i) Approve the Throughcare development
 - (ii) Approve the establishment of the additional Throughcare post as detailed in paragraph 4.1
 - (iii) Remit this report to Policy and Resources (Personnel Sub Committee)
 - (iv) Otherwise note the contents of this report



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
22nd May 2006

For further information on this report please contact Lillian Cringles, Justice Service Co-ordinator on telephone 01698 332195