

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

Social Work Committee : Operations and Services Sub Committee August 1998	Subject : Young People at Risk - Establishment of Pilot Project
From : Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work Prepared by : John S Scott, Principal Officer, Criminal Justice	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to :

- Inform Committee of developments for work with young offenders within North Lanarkshire.

2. BACKGROUND

Young People are dealt with by Social Work for a number of reasons. Many of the problems faced by them are exhibited in behaviour which causes risk, both to themselves and others. In some cases this will include offending and use of drugs or alcohol, alongside problems of poor relationships, social skills, or self esteem.

Young People who become involved in offending behaviour and / or use of drugs or alcohol place themselves at risk of greater involvement in the adult Criminal Justice System. This further prejudices their chance of making a successful, productive transition to adulthood, and the Social Work Department proposes to establish, on a pilot basis, revised structures in two of its Area Teams - Cumbernauld and Wishaw - which aim to provide improved management of young people at risk, as outlined above.

3. ARRANGEMENTS

The arrangements being made for this pilot work will include :

- The establishment of a Sub - Team (Criminal Justice / Bridging Teams) in the two Area Teams, which will bring together the skills of both Child Care and Criminal Justice Staff.
- The pilots will be established in Cumbernauld and Wishaw Area Teams to allow evaluation of the effectiveness of the revised arrangements compared with existing Departmental structures.

- The focus of work in the Sub - Teams will be :
 - The maintenance and development of programmes associated with adult criminal justice clients of the Social Work Department.
 - The development of programmes for young people, with the aim of reducing the numbers who enter the adult Criminal Justice System, and maximising the opportunities available to support the transition to adulthood.
- Work to be done with the young people involved will include :
 - Collaborative work with other staff, both within the Social Work Department, and in other agencies. This will include - within Social Work, Addiction Services, Day Care, IT - and from other agencies the Careers Service, Department of Employment staff involved in New Deal, the CHOSI Project (Barnardos).
 - The development of programmes which will tackle, at an earlier stage, behaviour which causes risk. This will include programmes which will tackle offending behaviour and programmes which will provide education and information to combat misuse of drugs and alcohol.
 - The development of programmes which will seek to build confidence and skills, in preparation for employment.

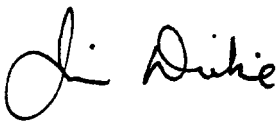
4. FUNDING

These proposals will be established from existing resources, with no additional cost to the Authority.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to :

- Note this development which is taking place in relation to work with young people.
- Approve that a report be provided to the Committee at a later date to inform it of progress in this area of work.



J Dickie
Director of Social Work

July 18th 1998

For further information contact John S Scott, Principal Officer, Criminal Justice (01698 332029)