

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

<p>Social Work Committee : Operations and Services Sub Committee 9th November, 1999</p>	<p>Subject : The Development of Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System</p>
<p>From : Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work Prepared by : John Scott, Principal Officer, Criminal Justice</p>	

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Inform the committee of proposals for the development of social work services in the criminal justice system.
- Seek approval for the spending of grant in the current financial year.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 It was reported to Committee, in the last cycle, that the Scottish Executive had provided grant for the development of services in the Criminal Justice System. This applied to three areas :

- Addiction services
- Young People at Risk
- Bail Services

2.2 It was also reported that grant provided by the Scottish Office was substantially less than that applied for in these three areas, and that the Scottish Executive would decide, at a later date, the provision of grant for the development of :

- Information Technology
- Supported Accommodation
- Training
- Diversion from Prosecution

2.3 The provision of a lower level of funding made it impossible to proceed with plans developed at the time of application, and these are currently being revised. This further interim report suggests that half-year funding made available in the current financial year be used to supplement current services, and to fund research activity, with the aim of bringing forward developed proposals for implementation at the beginning of the next financial year.

The Scottish Executive has not yet informed the authority of the provision of grant for the four remaining areas outlined at 2.2.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 This section outlines the current stage of review, and outlines proposals for the use of grant in the current financial year. The grant noted below has been provided for North and South Lanarkshire together.

3.2 Bail Services

Funding available to NLC and SLC - £80,000 (full year) and £40,000 (current year)

Pilot Bail Schemes, funded by the Scottish Executive, were established several years ago in Glasgow and Edinburgh. These have been evaluated in the Scottish Executive Research Programme and have been found to provide a valuable service to courts, providing additional information at the time of consideration of bail, and providing supervision to those whom the court consider pose a risk of non-compliance with the conditions of bail. The schemes help ensure that only those offenders who pose the greatest risk to others are remanded in custody.

As noted, the funding made available limits the scope envisaged and arrangements have been made, with the managers of both the Glasgow and Edinburgh schemes, to obtain further information which will help consider the scope of the Lanarkshire scheme, within the funds available.

In the interim, the Scottish Executive has been asked if the funds available in the current financial year can be applied to other areas of Criminal Justice activity, e.g. the provision of supported accommodation for vulnerable offenders who might otherwise be remanded in custody.

3.3 Young people who offend

Funding available to NLC and SLC - £70,000 (full year) and £35,000 (current year)

It is intended to target young people at risk, in the age group 14 - 18 in the development of proposals. Aims are to further develop services which have a focus on behaviour which poses risk to other people and to the young person. This will include violent behaviour and problems caused by substance misuse.

North Lanarkshire already has a range of services in place which offer a range and different levels of intervention with young people at risk. These include the :

- **Pilot Bridging Teams** in Cumbernauld and Wishaw which involve Criminal Justice and Child Care staff working together to focus on the risk behaviours noted above.
- **Kirknowe Assessment Unit** which provides a community based service for the assessment of young people.
- **The Young Person Support Projects** which provide personal intervention plans for young people within the Child Care system.
- **The Child Care Throughcare Teams** which provide support to young people moving to independent living.

- The **CHOSI Project**, managed by Barnardos, which provides longer term intervention for those most at risk of progression from the Child Care system to the Criminal Justice system.
- The **7 Day Centre** which provides vocational training and activity for young people at risk.
- The **Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Unit**, which provides support to young people involved in substance misuse.
- The wider range of **Addiction Projects** which provide support to young people involved in substance misuse.
- In addition, work done with young people at risk is supported by the arrangements made between Social Work and the Housing and Education Departments for the joint assessment, of and support to, those who are homeless and vulnerable or are have had to be excluded from education resources.

The development of additional services must complement the framework outlined above. Most of these relate to office working hours and consideration is being given to use of the additional grant for the development of services at peak offending times, at weekends or in the evening. Consideration will be given to the role of the voluntary sector, and it is proposed to consult with a range of organisations on the role they might play in the development of complementary services. Consideration has also been given to the extension of the adult Mediation and Reparation Scheme to young people. This is supported by all parties involved with young people, but it is doubtful whether the grant available will allow this development.

In the interim, the Scottish Executive have been asked if the grant available in the current year can be made available to supplement existing services, e.g. for additional befriending support.

3.4 **Addiction services**

Funding available to NLC and SLC - £70,000 (full year) and £35,000 (current year)

The original proposal for the development of addiction services included the establishment of a flexible arrangement for the support of individuals outwith normal office hours, and for the provision of programmes which focus on offending behaviour and underlying addiction.

It is proposed that, to develop proposals relevant to local needs, which have the confidence of relevant agencies, and which make the most effective use of the funding available, the Social Work Department, in conjunction with South Lanarkshire Council commission research to include an analysis of likely demand, understanding of the type of service that would be acceptable to all stakeholders, and proposals for ongoing methods of monitoring and evaluation, to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the service. It is proposed that agencies with experience in this field of work be invited to undertake research within the next three months, with the aim of putting new services in place at the beginning of the new financial year. This has been agreed in principle with officers of South Lanarkshire Council, but has yet to be approved by Committee.

It is anticipated that the research required could cost up to twenty thousand pounds, shared between North Lanarkshire Council and South Lanarkshire Council.

In the interim, the Scottish Executive have been asked if the grant available in the current financial year can be used to supplement existing addiction services, using sessional staff to increase the capacity currently available.

4. CONCLUSION

The Committee is asked to:

- note arrangements for the review of earlier proposals for the development of Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System
- approve proposals for spending of grant in the current financial year, if agreed by the Scottish Executive.



J Dickie

Director of Social Work

October 20th 1999

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