

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPS & SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE	Subject: LANARKSHIRE PRIMARY CARE NHS TRUST – YOUTH HEALTH SERVICE LANARKSHIRE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
Date: 6th December 2001	Ref: JB/JH

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the work being undertaken to improve the health and well being of young people throughout Lanarkshire.
- 1.2 The Government White Papers, Design to Care (1997) and Towards a Healthier Scotland (1999) recommended changes in the way in which health services are planned and designed within Scotland. It was recognised that the health and well-being of Scotland's youth required to be fundamentally reviewed with services being developed which would deal with current health issues as well as promote lifestyle changes.

2. YOUTH HEALTH LANARKSHIRE

- 2.1 The creation of Youth Health Lanarkshire (YHL) services reinforces Lanarkshire's commitment to the issue of providing a dedicated resource to deliver health services to young people in the community and to take young people's involvement in health issues forward. The service will explore innovative ways of service delivery taking account of young people's right to access health services focusing on:
 - Establishing a dedicated health care service for young people in Lanarkshire.
 - Utilising "satellite" provisions currently existing within communities from which to offer services while, at the same time, establishing positive working relationships with schools, youth settings and community groups.
 - Adopting a health and well-being approach to incorporate all aspects of young people's health.
- 2.2 The Project is fully funded by Lanarkshire Primary Care NHS Trust. It will enhance services to young people who reside within North and South Lanarkshire. The Integrated Youth Health Service will work closely with existing resources to target and reach vulnerable young people in order to deal with their health related issues.
- 2.3 The Project will be fully staffed and operational from December 2001. The Project Manager and four Youth Health Workers will be based at Dalziel Workspace in Motherwell.

3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The Project will be available to provide advice, support and guidance to any organisation regarding all aspects of youth health. This would include sexual health, mental health and emotional well-being (youth counselling), health promotion, health information, substance/alcohol and young people, outreach services, health and fitness and diet.
- 3.2 The dedicated Youth Health Workers will also provide a direct service to young people throughout Lanarkshire dealing with individualised health issues. It is anticipated that the Youth Health Workers will utilise existing resources to identify and engage young people about youth health issues.
- 3.3 The Project will offer specialist advice and contribute to the care planning process for vulnerable young people in North Lanarkshire. They will provide informed consultation to Case Managers dealing with vulnerable young people who have specific health related issues.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The health and well being of young people in North Lanarkshire is important and must be considered within the inclusiveness agenda. This project, although in its infancy, should provide an invaluable resource for agencies, parents, carers and young people throughout Lanarkshire.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.


Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
19th November 2001

For further information on this report please contact Mary Fegan, Head of Social Work Services, TEL: (01698 332004)

Background papers are available in the Members Library.