

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE	Subject: NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 20 FEBRUARY 2006	Ref: JD/GM	

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

- 1.1 This report is to advise Committee of the development of a North Lanarkshire Council on Alcohol.

2. Background

- 2.1. Last year the Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Action Team, (ADAT) in conjunction with North and South Lanarkshire Council's, commissioned Alcohol Focus to investigate the feasibility of establishing a Council on Alcohol for Lanarkshire or alternatively, one for each local Authority area.
- 2.2. The survey concluded it would be more practical to develop the service in each of the Council areas. However, it's envisaged that there would be close collaboration and working between the two sister organisations.
- 2.3. As part of their remit Alcohol Focus have recently appointed a Development Officer for the North Lanarkshire Council area, who is charged with setting up the new organisation.
- 2.4. Currently there are two voluntary addiction services operating in North Lanarkshire, Monklands Council on Addictions and Cumbernauld and Lanarkshire Counselling Service.
- 2.5. The immediate priorities for the newly appointed Development Officer include: -
- The establishment of an interim management committee;
 - Developing the draft budget for the service;
 - Recruiting and training of volunteer Counsellors;
 - Developing an operational counselling base in the Motherwell area;
 - Obtaining charitable status for the new organisation;
 - Integrating the existing voluntary organisations into the new North Lanarkshire Council on Alcohol.
- 2.6. Under the auspices of the Joint Future Agenda, North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire are in the process of developing an integrated substance misuse service. Progress reports on this proposal have been the subject of consideration by the Health and Care Partnership. It is anticipated that the Council on Alcohol will compliment the work of the new Substance Misuse Service by providing specialist counselling services to individuals who require such interventions.

- 2.7. The new Council on Alcohol will result in an increased pool of volunteer Counsellors who will enhance local service provision, and assist individuals who require interventions of this nature.
- 2.8. The development of the new service will increase the options and choices for individuals who require a counselling input as part of their treatment and rehabilitation regime.

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

- 3.1. There are no finance, personnel or legal implications for the Council in connection with this service development. Funding will be made available from Alcohol monies which have been allocated by the Executive to the Alcohol and Drug Action Team.
- 3.2. The proposal will assist the Council implement national and local policy obligations.

4. **Recommendation**

- 4.1. It is recommended that Committee note this report.



Director of Social Work
18 January 2006

For further information on this report please contact George McNally, Manager Social Work Strategy on telephone 01698 332555