

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: EVALUATION OF THE ARREST REFERRAL PILOT SCHEMES AND UPDATE ON THE LANARKSHIRE SCHEME (SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE SOCIAL RESEARCH 2006)	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
Date: 3 <sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2006	Ref: JS/LMCK		

**1. Purpose of Report / Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the Scottish Executive document "Evaluation of the Arrest Referral Pilot Schemes". The report will also update Committee on the current situation regarding the Lanarkshire Arrest Referral Pilot Scheme.

**2. Background**

- 2.1. Arrest Referral is an initiative which aims to improve the uptake of drug services among people who are arrested and whose offending is linked to drug or alcohol abuse.
- 2.2. In 2003, the Scottish Executive announced funding for a series of pilot Arrest Referral Schemes. Existing pilot schemes in Edinburgh and Midlothian, Tayside, Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde were given extra funding.
- 2.3. Three new schemes were funded in Lanarkshire, Dumfries and Galloway and Glasgow.
- 2.4. All of these projects, with the exception of Glasgow, are operated by voluntary agencies under contract to the Social Work Department. The Lanarkshire Project is operated by Sacro.
- 2.5. The Scottish Centre for Social Research (Scot Cen) and the Social Work Research Centre at Stirling University were commissioned to evaluate the pilot schemes.

**3. Proposals / Considerations**

- 3.1. The Evaluation of Arrest Referral Pilot Schemes gives a detailed analysis of the progress of the pilot schemes.
- 3.2. Due to the fact that three of the pilots were extensions to existing schemes and others (including Lanarkshire) were new, the schemes were all at different stages of development at the time of the evaluation.
- 3.3. The Lanarkshire scheme was in the early stages of its existence when this evaluation was carried out.
- 3.4. In terms of throughput, there was a great variation across the schemes in terms of numbers, ranging from 800 – 900 initial contacts, to around 100 in others.

- 3.5. There was also a great variation in terms of the relationship between projected and actual numbers, with some areas recording over the original projected numbers, while Lanarkshire recorded only a tenth of the number expected. The Scottish Executive recognises that the projected numbers for Lanarkshire were over estimated and will issue new targets. They will also take into account that Lanarkshire has been given limited funding for this project which also impacts on delivery of service.
- 3.6. The evaluation document indicates that there is reasonable evidence to suggest that Arrest Referral workers are making appropriate referrals to addiction agencies in connection with the majority of those arrested interviewed.
- 3.7. In all areas, offenders were provided with basic harm reduction information, new referrals onto other agencies or liaison with services which the person was already in contact with.
- 3.8. In relation to the Lanarkshire Arrest Referral scheme, this initially received referrals from three Police stations, Cumbernauld, Hamilton and Bellshill. The latter hold all women who are detained.
- 3.9. In more recent times, the Lanarkshire scheme has also visited the Courts to receive referrals prior to an offender's appearance. This has proved more beneficial, and the number of referrals has almost doubled in the past six months.
- 3.10. At a meeting with the Scottish Executive in September 2006, it was agreed that the initial anticipated figures for Lanarkshire were overstated and a new figure will now be determined by the Scottish Executive. This will also take cognisance of the limited funding in the Lanarkshire Scheme.
- 3.11. The funding for the Lanarkshire Scheme has been extended to March 2008.

#### **4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy Implication**

- 4.1. The funding for the Lanarkshire project has been extended until March 2008. There are no financial or personnel implications for North Lanarkshire Council, other than the scheme will continue to be monitored by Justice and Monitoring and Standards staff at Social Work Headquarters.

#### **5. Recommendation**

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

  
**Jim Dickie**  
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**13<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

For further information on this report please contact Jim Scullion, Service Manager, Justice on telephone 01698 332040

**A copy of the document is lodged in the Members Library**