

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

TO: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		SUBJECT: NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL MAJOR INCIDENT SUPPORT TEAM	
FROM: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
DATE: 5 DECEMBER 2006	REF: JMcC/MF		

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT/INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the progress of the Lanarkshire Major Incident Support Team (MIST).

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The MIST team is part of the Local Authority (North & South Lanarkshire Councils) and NHS Lanarkshire response to major incidents that may effect the population within the Lanarkshire Area.
- 2.2. MIST is covered by a joint management arrangement which exists between all three agencies, with co-ordinators managing the volunteers within each agency.
- 2.3 In a major incident the team would be activated and deployed by a senior manager within each agency with the co-ordinators managing the team on the ground.
- 2.4 A major incident in MIST terms can result from:
- an incident involving mass casualties within the Lanarkshire area
  - an incident involving residents of North and South Lanarkshire but occurring elsewhere
  - an incident occurring elsewhere in the world resulting in the evacuation of casualties or refugees to the UK
  - a relatively minor incident involving only a few, or even a single casualty, but which affects a large number of people in the community eg classmates of a child

**3. PROGRESS/CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS**

- 3.1. In February 2006, the Council's Policy and Resources Committee approved a Joint Memorandum of Agreement between North and South Lanarkshire Councils and NHS Lanarkshire. This outlined the management arrangements that would be put in place in the event of a major incident that required the staff resources of two or more of the agencies involved.
- 3.2. A draft scoping document, Joint Protocol for Working with Victims Families' has been agreed between Lanarkshire MIST and Strathclyde Police. This outlines how all the agencies could work together in the event of a major incident. This was tabled at the Strathclyde Emergencies Co-ordination Group (Strategic).

- 3.3 The annual MIST conference will be hosted by North Lanarkshire Council in Airdrie Town Hall on 10 November 2006. The theme for this year is "Learning from Experience". This is the fourth annual conference to be held and will again be launched by the Chief Executive of North Lanarkshire Council.
- 3.4 Joint training between the MIST volunteers and Strathclyde Police, Family Liaison Officers (FLO's) is in the planning stage and this is hoped to be replicated across all Local Authorities within the Force area.
- 3.5 Staff from North Lanarkshire Council are also actively involved in a Scottish Executive sponsored Humanitarian Assistance Group looking at producing national guidelines for this area of work.

#### **4. DEVELOPMENT OF MIST TEAM**

- 4.1. Training and information sessions are ongoing with the team and the training programme is currently being devised for 2007.
- 4.2. There is also ongoing work to further involve the voluntary sector representatives and faith groups who would be able to complement the work of the MIST team in the event of a major incident.

#### **5. FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. Costs for the operation of the MIST team are met from mainline budgets.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Committee is asked to:
  - (i) note the contents of the report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**1 November 2006**

*For further information on this report please contact Jim McCreanor, Service Manager, Children and Families on 01698 332723.*