

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: THE NORTH AND SOUTH LANARKSHIRE PROTOCOL ON WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY PARENTAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 5 DECEMBER 2006	Ref: NM/AB	

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

To advise Committee of work taking place to support children and families affected by parental substance misuse through multi-agency staff training and development.

2. Background

2.1. In September 2001, the Scottish Executive published the consultation document "Getting Our Priorities Right". Following on from this, North and South Lanarkshire Council along with NHS Lanarkshire and STRADA (a voluntary organisation who provide a range of training, education and development opportunities to staff working in the drug and alcohol field) developed the Protocol: Working with Children and Families affected by Parental Substance Misuse.

2.2. As part of the implementation of the Protocol, a multi-agency training programme was established across both council areas. This has consisted of:

- Managers Briefing (half day events)
- Raising Awareness Sessions for Staff
- Two Day Skilled Based Workshops

2.3. Following the publication of Hidden Harm, Next Steps Supporting Children – Working with Parents (Scottish Executive, 2006), a draft action plan has been developed which identifies the key messages and actions to be taken to continue to ensure children affected by parental substance misuse are identified at an early stage and supported to develop emotionally, socially and physically.

3. Proposals / Considerations

3.1. Since February 2005, 4 Managers Briefings have taken place, with a further briefing organised for December 2006. To date, approximately 130 managers have attended these briefings.

3.2. Since April 2005, 78 Raising Awareness Sessions have taken place in North Lanarkshire, with a further 12 organised up until March 2007. To date, approximately 462 staff have attended these sessions.

3.3. Since April, 2005, 45 two Day Workshops have taken place in North Lanarkshire, with a further 13 organised up until March 2007. To date, approximately 339 staff have attended these workshops.

- 3.4 The above have been attended by staff from a range of agencies including midwives, substance misuse workers, social workers, teachers, voluntary sector staff, health visitors, community services workers, housing staff and staff from SCRA.
- 3.5 The training programme will continue until July 2007.
- 3.6 Prior to the training programme ending, an evaluation will be undertaken which will include an exit strategy and the capacity for the training to be embedded in each agency's own training programme for staff.

4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy Implication

- 4.1 The implementation of the Protocol and training plan has been overseen by the Getting Our Priorities Right Steering Group whose members represent a variety of agencies within North and South Lanarkshire, NHS Lanarkshire and STRADA.
- 4.2 Funding for the training programme has been provided by the Changing Children Services Fund.

5. Recommendation

Committee is asked to:

- (1) note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
2nd November 2006

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor (Manager Children and Families) on telephone 01698 332032 or Nicola McMurray (Social Worker Child Protection) on telephone 01698 332223.