

Report

15

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 September 2006
Report by:	Executive Director (Social Work Resources) Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Subject:	Restorative Justice
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Seek approval for the establishment of 2 additional 14 hour Restorative Justice Worker posts within the Restorative Justice Team
- ◆ Seek approval to negotiate a service for Victim Support Scotland to address victim issues

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that 2 additional 14 hour Restorative Justice Worker posts are established within the Restorative Justice Service
- (2) that the Executive Director (Social Work Resources) be authorised to negotiate an appropriate service with Victim Support Scotland to address the needs of victims

3. Background

- 3.1. The Scottish Executive as part of its anti-social behaviour initiative required Councils to set up a Restorative Justice Service. Separate funding was made available to develop this.
- 3.2. The purpose of the Restorative Justice Service is to identify those young people at risk of becoming involved in offending or anti-social behaviour at an early stage. To offer them and their family the opportunity to consider the consequences of that behaviour and divert them to other more suitable activities within the community. The service is aimed largely at young people between the age of 12 and 16.
- 3.3. The service has been established in conjunction with Strathclyde Police, the Scottish Children's Reporter's Administration and works in partnership with the Problem Solving Units in Youth Learning Services.
- 3.4. Strathclyde Police identify the young people who may be suitable for either a police warning or restorative justice intervention. The Restorative Justice Team negotiates with the Reporter to ensure that young people may not require a different form of intervention because of other factors in their life.

- 3.5. If a restorative justice service is identified as potentially suitable, the Restorative Justice Team work with the young person and their family to look at the reasons for the behaviour; to help the family understand and the young person understand the implications of being involved on an ongoing basis in the behaviour; to provide some payback either to individual victims or to the community and to encourage the young person to use their leisure time to be involved in more appropriate activities within the community.
- 3.6. The Restorative Justice Service was set up in July 2005. In the first year of operation they have dealt with 130 referrals and the level of referral is increasing. It has proved an effective way of engaging with young people and their families through helping them consider alternative ways of managing their behaviour.
- 3.7. Some effective work has been carried out with those affected by anti social or offending behaviour, particularly corporate organisations such as Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and First Bus. Individual victims have been more reluctant to become involved in the process.
- 3.8. In establishing the team, some funding was held back for the first year in order to determine the nature of demand and how the service should be developed.

The current staffing establishment is as follows:

Restorative Justice Co-ordinator	1
Restorative Justice Worker	2
Community Service Supervisor	1
Groupworker (Offensive Weapons)	1

- 3.9. Given the level of referral, it is necessary to augment the Restorative Justice establishment. Much of the work is undertaken at evenings and weekends and the staff have provided a flexible service in order to address this need. Having reviewed where we are at it is suggested that there would be a benefit from establishing 2 additional posts that can operate on a more flexible basis providing a service at weekends or evenings in response to demand.
- 3.10. In addition the need to work with victim organisations has been identified to encourage the participation of individual victims. There are a number of reasons for victim's reluctance to become involved and it would be important that individuals are supported to make a decision that they feel is in their interest. On that basis preliminary discussions have been held with Victim Support who have agreed that they would be interested in considering a role in this particular area of work.
- 3.11. The additional staffing complement would allow the Co-ordinator more time to develop the relationship with Problem Solving groups and the opportunity to identify and intervene early in areas where problems are arising

4. Employee Implications

4.1.

Post	Number	Hours	SCP	Rate Per Hour	Annual Salary	Gross Costs	Total Cost
Restorative							

Justice Worker	2	14	33-48	9.14 - 11.42	£6,672 - £8,336	£8,540 - £10,670	£17,080 - £21,340
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- 4.2. The costs stated above include the effects of Superannuation and National Insurance, travel and associated costs.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. This post will be funded from existing resources.

6. Other Implications

- 6.1. None

7. Consultation

- 7.1. Consultation has taken place with all key partners including Strathclyde Police, The Scottish Children's Reporters Administration, Victim Support and Youth Learning Services. This was carried out as a formal review of the service and the recommendations for service development arose from the consultation.

Harry Stevenson
Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

Robert McIlwain
Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

10 August 2006

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Safe and Healthy Communities

Previous References

- Restorative Justice Report done last year

List of Background Papers

- Anti Social Behaviour Strategy
- Children's Service Plan
- Review of Restorative Justice Service

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Mairi Brackenridge, Head of Justice Services

Ext: 3715 (Tel: 01698 453715)

E-mail: mairi.brackenridge@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

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