

**Note of Youth Court Meeting
Monday 18 April 2011 @ 4.30pm
South Lanarkshire Council Headquarters**

Present:

Sheriff Dickson (Chair)
Sheriff Bicket
Tony McNulty – LCJA
Joanne Plunkett – LCJA (Admin Support)
Fiona Dyer – Scottish Government
Iain MacAulay – NLC
Sandra Sage – SLC
Peter Reid – COPFS (Airdrie)
Jennifer Harrower – COPFS – (Hamilton)
Jill McLeod – Strathclyde Police (Q Division)
Alick Irvine – Strathclyde Police (N Division)
Audrey Marsh – Strathclyde Police (Police Headquarters, Pitt Street)
Sheila Hindes – SCS
David Jones – SCRA

Apologies:

Jim Dustan – SPS

Introductions:

Sheriff Dickson welcomed everyone and asked if they could introduce themselves.

Draft Project Implementation Plan Paper:

Iain MacAulay provided an introduction regarding the paper and how it proposes a “Whole System Approach” to respond to offending behaviour by young people and included a project plan to introduce this across North and South Lanarkshire.

Implementation will involve reviewing systems and responses in place across the Local Authorities of North and South Lanarkshire, for dealing with the offending behaviour of young people. The aim of the implementation plan replicates national work under the Reducing Reoffending Programme: to reduce reoffending by young people (under 18) through early and appropriate interventions.

Iain stated that within the Youth Court Evaluation it was highlighted that with its “fast track” procedures and additional resources it was regarded as a model to be aspired to by other areas of Scotland.

Two issues in particular needed further attention following the Youth court Evaluation Report - First, consideration needed to be given to whether the Youth Court encourages “net-widening” and if so how this could be avoided and secondly greater clarity is required regarding about how agencies can

work more effectively together to produce a Whole System Approach on the ground.

Agencies/Bodies – Questions/Comments/Suggestions:

Overall the Draft Project Implementation Plan Paper was welcomed by all. It was recognised that the plan is to enhance Youth Justice services at the points where they interface directly with young people rather than changes to the Youth Court Procedures themselves.

An active discussion took place round the table regarding “Early Interventions” and “Diversions” and in particular how agencies can work with young people and communicate with each other to ensure efficient and effective services.

Way Forward:

In order to put the Implementation Plan into effect it was agreed that a Project Board group would be required in order to ensure that the timescales contained within the Project Plan are adhered to and that the identified milestones are achieved.

In terms of accountability and management a discussion took place regarding option one, two, three and four within the paper and the best way forward. It was agreed that there would be an interim arrangement put in place through the formation of two groups.

The first group will be a smaller separate Project Board group which will meet to consider practical matters around the Implementation of the plan. Agencies involved in this group will forward the names of representatives to Iain MacAulay who will collate the information.

It was also agreed that Implementation Project Board will continue in the interim and will involve one representative from each of the bodies who are in attendance today. Sheriff Dickson agreed to continue chairing the group and the next meeting will be on Wednesday 1 June 2011 within South Lanarkshire Council @ 4.30pm.

Actions:

- **Relevant attendees to forward name of representative to attend the smaller separate Project Board group to Iain MacAulay for collating.**
- **Joanne Plunkett – book committee room within South Lanarkshire Council for next meeting.**

AOCB:

None