

Report

Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 September 2021
Report by:	Director, Health and Social Care

Subject:	Social Work Trauma Recovery Service
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide Committee with an update on the support the Trauma Recovery Service offers to Children and Young People, including the numbers of Families accessing the service in the last year.

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that they note the vital support that the Service has offered Families over 20 years and the continued need for specialised Trauma Recovery Services.

3. Background

3.1. The Service was established in 2000 after South Lanarkshire Social Work Resources identified a need for a service with a specific remit of supporting children and young people recovering trauma. The therapeutic input was seen as an integral part of the Social Work Care Plan and was viewed and admired nationally as a progressive and forward-thinking at the time.

3.2. Over the 20 years, the Service has continued to support some of South Lanarkshire's most vulnerable Children and Families recovering from Trauma and/or abuse (more than 2000 families over that time). It has become a respected and valued Service by Families and other therapeutic partner agencies across Lanarkshire and has consistently received positive feedback from Inspectorate reports.

3.3. All the Trauma Counsellors within the team are qualified and experienced Child and Family Counsellors. The Counsellors offer an integrative approach using a variety of therapeutic modalities, the team offer a 'needs led' Service, including Play and Art Therapy, Person Centred and Psychodynamic counselling, and Dyadic Parent/Child Therapy. The work is grounded in Relationship Based and Trauma Informed Practice.

3.4. The Social Work Trauma Recovery Service (TRS) is located within the wider Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework for South Lanarkshire. The service differs from School Based Counselling and CAMHS, as It provides a unique service for Young People with multiple complex traumas with a high level of concern around issues of child and/or adult protection (see appendix 2 for service summary of CAMHS, School Counselling). The TRS counsellors are often involved in the intensive support work provided by Social Work teams such as Fas (under 12yrs), Intensive Family Support Service (over 12yrs), PACT, Family Placement Team and Throughcare Services.

4. Current numbers of families accessing the service.

4.1. These figures are taken from a one-year period from June 2020 to June 2021
New Requests for Assistance – 134.

Age Breakdown: 0-12 (71) 13-17 (48) Age 18 and over (15)

The team support 38 Young People who continue to reside with birth parents, 25 who are residing in Kinship Care, 40 Children who are in Foster Care, 12 who are in Adoption and 4 in Residential Care, and 15 Young Adults who are in receipt of Aftercare.

4.1.1. Of these 134 referrals, 36 new cases were allocated direct therapeutic work. All other requests were offered consultation support from the TRS Team Leader, either as a one-off consultation or regular monthly consults.

4.2. The figure of 134 is consistent with previous years. The service has not had the capacity to allocate all referrals for counselling due to demand. The service consists of 1 x Team Leader, 3 x WTE Counsellors and 1 x part time Counsellor. The service offer consultations to cases that they are unable to allocate now. Mental Health and Wellbeing funding from Scottish Government has been allocated to recruit and additional Counsellor will be focussed solely on providing support to the Fas (under 12yrs) and Intensive Family Support Service teams (over 12yrs).

4.3. An extraordinary and unforeseen challenge over this period has been the unavoidable loss of access to the purpose-built child and family therapy space established in the East Kilbride local Social Work office. Child and Family Trauma recovery work needs to be carefully managed and demands a very safe, specialised kind of space with developmentally appropriate resources. Pre-Covid, the Family Therapy space was used by the TRS counsellors from 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

4.4. Counsellors have continued to provide Parent/Child and Family Work throughout the lockdowns, helping several young people to remain with or return to birth parents, or for Foster, Adoptive or Kinship placements to overcome difficulties and hold steady. If Covid restrictions continue to ease (and staff capacity stabilises), TRS will again be able to prioritise Parent/Child work and return to previous levels of allocations.

4.5. South Lanarkshire Council's continued use of Child and Family Trauma Counsellors to work within Social Work Care plans remains a forward thinking and progressive initiative, which keeps reflective practice at the centre of Social Work interventions and which aligns with The Promise's commitment to families having access to family type therapies.

5. Employee Implications

5.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications associated with the report.

7. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications

7.1. There are no Climate Change, sustainability or environmental implications associated with this report.

8. Other Implications

8.1. There are no other implications associated with this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

9.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy, or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

Soumen Sengupta
Director, Health and Social Care

23 July 2021

Link(s) to Council Values/Objectives

- ◆ focused on people and their needs
- ◆ working with and respecting others
- ◆ support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration
- ◆ protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ deliver better health and social care outcomes for all

Previous References

- ◆ none

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Appendix 1

Contact for Further Information

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

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