WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Acting Director of Social Work Services

Children's Services Committee: 16 August 2006

Subject: Update on Intensive Support and Monitoring Services (ISMS)

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this report is to update members of the committee on the operation of ISMS since the project became fully operational in August 2005.

2. Background

- **2.1.** This Council is one of seven councils who volunteered to pilot the introduction of electronic tagging of young people under 16.
- **2.2.** ISMS was introduced as a possible alternative to young people whose behaviour was so concerning that they required to be accommodated in Secure Care.
- **2.3.** Young people can only be made subject to Movement Restriction Conditions (MRC) (electronic tagging) as a result of decisions made by a Children's Hearing.
- **2.4.** If a decision is made to place a young person on a Movement Restriction Condition then the young person should also receive an Intensive Support Service (I.S.S.). This I.S.S. should be of at least 25 hours per week duration plus the equivalent of full-time education.
- **2.5.** The following personnel provide the above services.

West Dunbartonshire Council:	1 ISMS Co-ordinator
	2 Family Support Workers
	2 Teachers
	Includem Intensive Support Workers

- **2.6.** Includem is a voluntary organisation who provide intensive support services to young people and their families.
- **2.7.** Both the Council's service and the Includem service provide an intensive support package to young people 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

3. Early Outcome Indicators

3.1. Evaluation of the implementation and outcome measurement of the 7 pilot authorities is being carried out on behalf of the Scottish Executive by an independent firm of consultants. The full evaluation of the 2-year pilot will not be known until about June 2007.

At present, though, our own evaluation of the programme is beginning to show some very positive indicators in the following areas.

3.2. Offending Behaviour – overall there have been massive reductions in the offending behaviours of all the young people on the programme, but also there have been some stark individual examples, one young person went from 160 offences in the 9 months prior to ISMS to 1 offence in his year with ISMS.

Resilience – for those young women who have been supported by the ISMS programme, a major risk factor in their life has been the possible dangers of sexual exploitation. The intensive supports given to them has seen major improvements in building their resilience. This has led to a considerable reduction in their risk taking behaviours.

Working with Parents – Consultation with parents has given us very positive feedback about the quality, intensity and availability of the supports given to them. This has resulted in a significant decrease in request from parents to have their child accommodated by the Council.

3.3. We are also seeing a significant reduction in the use of expensive residential resources, as can be seen in Appendix 1.

4. Personnel Issues

At this moment in time there are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

At present there are no financial implications.

6. Conclusions

6.1. Whilst the full evaluation of the ISMS programme is still ongoing and will not be concluded until the Summer of 2007, early outcome measures are showing very positive results.

The key conclusion that can be drawn from the experience so far is that as a model of intervention the ISMS programme has shown that it is possible to deal with some of our more troubled young people within community settings without resorting to more expensive residential resources.

7. Recommendation

7.1. Members of the committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

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Background Papers:

Wards Affected: All

Appendix 1

Referrals to Intensive Support and Monitoring Services

From August 2005 until July 2006 24 young people referred to the ISMS programme.

17 young people subject to a formal assessment as a result of a decision from a Children's Hearing.

7 young people subject to an informal assessment as a result of a Looked after Child Review. These young people were assessed as not requiring a Movement Restriction Condition, but needed intensive support.

8 young people were placed on a Movement Restriction Condition (Electronic Tag).

Present Situation

10 young people on the ISMS programme. (7 males and 3 females)

5 young people presently on a Movement Restriction Condition (4 males and 1 female)

1 young person on aftercare support following a Movement Restriction Condition (female)

2 young people on assessment (2 males)

2 young people on Intensive Supports without a Movement Restriction Order (1 male and 1 female)

Outcomes

The following are early indicative figures of what has been achieved over the past year through the involvement of the ISMS programme.

9 young people have returned home from residential school earlier than would have been possible, due to intensive supports.

3 young people have returned from Secure Accommodation earlier.

6 young people were prevented from being placed in Secure Accommodation.

2 Young people had their placement in Secure Accommodation significantly delayed.

3 young people (under 16) avoided being placed in adult custody.

6 young people were prevented from being accommodated by the Council.

4 young people were prevented from being moved from their present residential unit to a residential school.