

To: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WORK SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: CARE HOME PROVISION FOR OLDER PEOPLE
From: DUNCAN MACKAY HEAD OF SOCIAL WORK DEVELOPMENT	
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1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for proposals to cease admissions at Leslie House Motherwell and Ochilview, Cumbernauld, both residential care homes for older people; and - following the successful relocation of residents and redeployment of staff - to declare Herbison House, a former care home in Shotts, surplus to requirements and delete posts attached to that home.

2. Background

2.1 In February 2008 Committee approved a report designed to secure care home provision within a best value framework. The report described the council's success and capacity to support the majority of older people in their aspiration to remain at home through a combination of:

- Increasing investment in home care services by more than 400% to over £28m per annum. In 1999, the average number of hours of support received per person was 4.3 hours per week. Today, it is 9.3 hours. Home care services today are focused on meeting personal care needs and are much more flexible than before. In 1999 less than 10% of people received a service at evenings or weekends. Today it is 76%.
- Day care provision has been targeted at the most vulnerable older people in our communities, increasingly integrated with NHS day hospital services, and with extended opening times in a number of settings.
- New technology has provided reassurance and made many more people feel secure and confident about staying in their own home. Innovations such as devices that monitor falls, movement, breathing, temperature drops and general security are routinely available and these, together with the community alarms response service, assist more than 10,000 older people to continue living at home.
- Joint approaches with health colleagues in NHS Lanarkshire has resulted in a range of service developments, including integrated day services, out of hours home care and evening nursing services, intermediate care acting as a buffer to avoid or reduce hospital stays, falls prevention schemes and rapid response/early supported discharge teams.
- Very sheltered housing has been developed across North Lanarkshire, aimed at those most vulnerable to care home admission.
- Specialist support for people with dementia is now commissioned from Alzheimer (Scotland) across North Lanarkshire.

- For those with slightly less intensive levels of need, a variety of opportunities for day supports in their own communities is facilitated by Locality Links Officers and increased support for carers has been provided through jointly agreed use of funds available for this purpose.
- 2.2 Inevitably, in the context of this major shift in services, the use of residential care homes has been falling. In 1996, North Lanarkshire Council had 460 residential care home places in 14 directly provided care homes. Today, the Council has 6 care homes for older people with a total of 195 places, currently containing 141 long term residents. There are 140 people living in independent sector care homes paid at the residential rate, 33 of whom are self-funders for whom the Council is required to meet the free personal care element.
- 2.3 In contrast, nursing home provision, all of which lies within the independent sector, has grown over recent years. There are currently 1,231 people living in independent sector care homes paid at the nursing home rate, 182 of whom are self-funders for whom the Council is required to meet the free personal care element. Levels of need of people in nursing homes are significantly greater than those in residential care. In other words, most people whose needs were previously met in residential care can be met at home; and where an older person requires admission to a care home it is generally because they have nursing needs that require to be met in that form of care.
- 2.4 There has been a steep rise in new build nursing home provision, stimulated by the introduction of National Care Standards regulated by the Care Commission. The increase in new-build nursing home provision has outstripped need and today, at any given time in North Lanarkshire, there is spare capacity in nursing home places of around 150 vacant places.
- 2.5 An inevitable consequence of this shift in the balance of care has been that numbers of places bought or provided in residential homes have diminished over time, and numbers of people in care homes registered to meet nursing needs have grown. In the independent sector there are now 32 nursing homes and only 4 residential care homes in North Lanarkshire.
- 2.6 The level and type of investment in community based support has meant that the council's balance of care is one of the best in Scotland. 41% of older people with intensive care needs are now supported at home against a national target of 30%. There are now 142 Very Sheltered Housing units in North Lanarkshire and a further 30 Assisted Living Units (in Motherwell), providing support for people who would once have been eligible for residential care.
- 2.7 In previous reports Committee members were also advised that none of the council's own care homes met the standard – single room, en-suite accommodation- to which the council aspires for its vulnerable older people. The report considered the feasibility of upgrading the homes and the cost of both upgrade and maintenance of the homes in question.
- 2.8 The outcome was, in May 2008, Committee agreement to retain four local authority care homes with the intention that they would be upgraded to single room en-suite standards, and be used with a focus on intermediate care i.e. assessment, rehabilitation and also respite. The reason for that is most older people are admitted to a care home directly from an acute hospital environment, where there may have been little or no attempt to maximise the person's capacity before discharge. Consequently decisions about long term care were often being taken at the wrong time in a person's life in the wrong place.

- 2.9 This report considers the two remaining local authority care homes – Leslie House in Motherwell and Ochilview in Cumbernauld – which were not identified for retention and investment by Committee.

3. The Way Forward

- 3.1 The council's approach is described in "Living Well in North Lanarkshire", the partnership's member/officer quality of life strategy for older people, developed to address future needs in the context of demographic change. It states that every locality should have a range of services that, when considered together, offer a spectrum of support for older people.
- 3.2 "Living Well" identifies the key supports that are important in contributing to the spectrum of support for older people. This includes sufficient care home capacity, intensive home care, day care, assistive living technology, carer support including respite care, health services, sheltered and very sheltered housing and a wide variety of community supports facilitated by social work locality link officers.
- 3.3 A member/officer group including organisations representing older people oversees implementation of the "Living Well" strategy. A recent annual review event, including cross-party elected member representation, was held to share progress to date with older people in North Lanarkshire.
- 3.4 Ochilview in Cumbernauld and Leslie House in Motherwell are the remaining two council care homes that in terms of the design and fabric of the buildings are no longer considered to be fit for purpose. Neither home has private bathroom facilities. Ochilview has 40 rooms and 28 long term residents. Leslie House has 40 rooms and 33 long term residents. In keeping with the Council's previous decisions in 2008, and mindful of the need to comply with an obligation to demonstrate Best Value, approval is sought to cease admissions to these homes. As in previous situations of this nature, no existing resident will be required to leave. If approved, individual discussions will take place with residents and family members to explore alternatives, if that is their wish.
- 3.5 There are related improvements in services for older people in both locations that will contribute to a reduction in the need for care home admissions. An integrated day service with NHS Lanarkshire will be provided in Airbles Road, Motherwell from autumn 2010. Motherwell has never previously had a day service for older people.
- 3.6 Cumbernauld was the only area where progress was more difficult to achieve in day services, as the NHS day hospital was contracted from a private provider, in one wing of Carrickstone Nursing Home. However this contract expires in March 2011 enabling an integrated day service to operate from the Antonine Centre thereafter with a satellite service that is currently being constructed in Kilsyth. Furthermore discussions are taking place with NHS Lanarkshire about the designation of NHS contracted beds in care homes in the Cumbernauld area, and the scope to increase local capacity and choice.
- 3.7 The proposal to cease admissions to both Leslie House and Ochilview is consistent with the Committee decision in May 2008 not to invest in either home.
- 3.8 The decommissioning of Herbison House, Shotts has been successfully completed. All residents were supported to move to an alternative home of their choosing and a redeployment exercise for all staff is now concluded. This report seeks approval to delete posts attached to the home to the value of £671,512 which contributes towards the total savings required of the social work service. The posts are set out in Appendix 1.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) cease new admissions to Leslie House and Ochilview residential care homes;
- (ii) declare Herbison House surplus to requirements and delete the posts outlined in Appendix 1; and
- (iii) remit this report to Policy & Resources (Human Resources) sub-Committee.



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For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Head of Social Work Development Telephone 01698 332024

APPENDIX 1

POSTS TO BE DELETED – HERBISON HOUSE, RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

Posts	Grade	Number of Posts	Hours	Mid Salary Point	Salary costs per number of posts	Night Allowance 33.33%	Total of 15% Non core hours payment	Total savings including allowances
Unit Manager	NLC 11	1	37	£33,575	£33,575	N/A	N/A	£33,575
Senior Social Care Worker (Day)	NLC 9	3	37	£27,011	£81,033	N/A	£2,916	£83,949
Senior Social Care Worker (Night)	NLC 9	1.93	71.5	£27,011	£52,197	£15,330	N/A	£67,527
Social care Worker (Day)	NLC 6	11.52	426.3	£19,367	£223,139	N/A	£9,862	£233,001
Social Care Worker (Night)	NLC 6	4.05	150	£19,367	£78,515	£23,555	N/A	£102,070
Senior Clerical Assistant	NLC 5	1	35	£17,088	£17,088	N/A	N/A	£17,088
							Sub Total	£537,210
							+ 25% on costs	£134,302
							TOTAL	£671,512