

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject:  Joint Community Care Plan - Responsibilities and Approach
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 21 January 1997	
REF: DM/KS	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the authority's responsibility to produce a Community Care Plan and to propose an approach to the task. The report has been prepared in consultation with the Director of Housing.

**2. THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 2.1 Section 52 of the NHS and Community Care Act (1990) requires that "each local authority shall prepare and publish a plan for the provision of community care services in their area". Plans should be produced at three yearly intervals and reviewed annually.
- 2.2 Members may recall that Social Work Committee in March 1996 considered proposals for establishing new joint planning arrangements, and approved the proposal that the Joint Community Care Plan should be produced at unitary council level.
- 2.3 Scottish Office guidance requires that Community Care plans should be joint documents with other key planning partners such as Lanarkshire Health Board and Scottish Homes. Whilst the Social Work Department take lead responsibility, the participation of other Council Departments is equally important, particularly that of the Housing and Education Departments.
- 2.4 Local authorities must conform with Scottish Office Guidance and Directions on Consultation, Purchasing and Planning issued in 1993 and 1994. The main elements of this are:
- ♦ there is a requirement to consult with a range of statutory and independent sector bodies;
  - ♦ plans must state planned volumes of services to be purchased from each sector (voluntary, private and local authority), the estimated expenditure of such and the authority's unit costs;
  - ♦ plans must set out priorities and targets for care groups and actions to achieve them;
  - ♦ plans must state progress made against White paper objectives.

### 3. ACTION

3.1 The view of the Social Work Department is that high priority in the first North Lanarkshire Community Care Plan should be given to ensuring the plan should become more accessible and meaningful to service users and carers. It is proposed to do this by:

- ♦ involving users and carers in the production of the draft Plan, where possible prior to the formal consultation process;
- ♦ writing the plan in plain English and adopting an easy to follow format - this is set out in the appendix to this report;
- ♦ making the plan available in a variety of different formats - brief summary versions, other languages, tape, braille, large print.

### 4. TIMESCALE

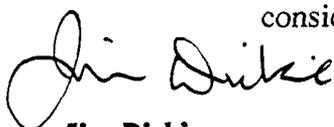
4.1 The most recent Community Care Plan covered the Lanarkshire Health Board area and was issued in early 1996. The Scottish Office have an expectation that a review plan will be produced around 1st April 1997, but acknowledge that the extent to which each authority will be able to produce a comprehensive plan will vary.

4.2 In order to allow sufficient time to involve users and carers groups and local organisations in the production of the draft Plan, it is proposed that the target for presenting the draft Plan for consideration by Social Work and other Committees as appropriate should be the May 1997 committee cycle, and that the Director of Social Work and Housing, in conjunction with the Director of Education, work jointly with the Health Board and Scottish Homes to achieve the timescale. The draft Plan would be agreed with Lanarkshire Health Board prior to issuing it for consultation.

### 5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of the above report;
- (ii) endorse the approach set out to the production of the Community Care Plan;
- (iii) remit the report to the Housing and Education committees for their interest and consideration.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**January 1997**

*For further information on this report please contact D Mackay, Principal Officer (Planning & Development) (TEL: 01698 332067)*

**APPENDIX****OUTLINE STRUCTURE FOR  
NORTH LANARKSHIRE JOINT COMMUNITY CARE PLAN**

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. VALUES & PRINCIPLES STATEMENT**
- 3. NATIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVES**
  - 3.1 Review of Progress
- 4. PLANNING COMMUNITY CARE IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE**
  - 4.1 New joint planning structures
  - 4.2 Agency roles and responsibilities
  - 4.3 Demographic information of new Council
  - 4.4 Area Profiles
- 5. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CARE**
  - 5.1 A housing strategy
  - 5.2 Homelessness
- 6. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK 1997-2000**
- 7. PURCHASING INTENTIONS**
  - 7.1 Balance of provision by sector
  - 7.2 Unit cost information
  - 7.3 Summary of purchasing plan
- 8. CARE GROUP CHAPTERS**
- 9. A LOCAL PLAN FOR THE GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH BOARD AREA**
- 10. GLOSSARY**