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AGENDA ITEM No.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: Progress Report on Implementation of Planned Hospital Discharge Programmes
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 7th October 1997	
REPORT AUTHOR: Duncan Mackay	
REF: JD/DM	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Committee on progress being made towards implementing planned hospital discharge programmes for people with mental health problems and learning disabilities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** North Lanarkshire inherited responsibility for a number of long stay hospital discharge programmes that were already in progress. In respect of mental health this relates to both Lanarkshire Health Board (Hartwoodhill Hospital) and Greater Glasgow Health Board (Woodilee Hospital). The largest of these is concerned with Hartwoodhill, a planned programme to reduce the number of long stay hospital beds by 85, together with responsibility for delivering a small share of the Woodilee programme.
- 2.2** In respect of learning disability the major planned hospital discharge programme relates to the reduction of 122 beds from Kirklands and Birkwood Hospitals. The Council also has responsibility for delivering a small share of the Lennox Castle and Royal Scottish National Hospital programmes.
- 2.3** North Lanarkshire Social Work Department receives an agreed level of resource transfer for a proportion of these closures which is used to pay for the direct care of people leaving hospital and the development of community based services designed to prevent future hospital admissions.
- 2.4** No hospital bed reductions take place without the following conditions being put in place:
- ◆ no individual will be discharged without a full assessment of their needs
 - individuals will be offered a better quality of life than that available to them in hospital
 - ◆ community services must be in place before hospital beds are closed

- ♦ resources released from hospitals must be invested in replacement health and social care services
- ♦ a sufficient level of good quality long stay NHS hospital care must be maintained to meet the needs of those who require this form of care.

3. ACCOMMODATION FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

- 3.1** In mental health North Lanarkshire is responsible for commissioning care for 47 individuals, 38 of whom have already been successfully discharged from long stay hospital care and placed in fully supported community care settings.
- 3.2** A range of supported accommodation is required to support the remaining 9 people, together with those to be discharged from Woodilee Hospital and people with severe mental illness who currently live in the community but require additional levels of care to ensure they stay out of hospital. This includes a number of people who frequently require periods of short-term hospitalisation at present.
- 3.3** The need has been identified for 6 units of accommodation with an adjacent 24 hour staffed flat, together with a number of dispersed supported tenancies both in the vicinity and elsewhere in the authority. Scottish Homes have agreed to include a requirement that the Housing Association who are successful in the competition for the Watling Street development in Motherwell shall provide provision of 6 such units. Additional tenancies will be secured through negotiations with local housing associations and the Council's Housing Department.

4. ACCOMMODATION FOR THE LEARNING DISABILITY PROGRAMME

- 4.1** In learning disability North Lanarkshire is responsible for commissioning care for 70 individuals, 27 of whom have already been successfully discharged from long stay hospital care and placed in fully supported community care settings.
- 4.2** A range of supported accommodation is required to support the remaining 43 people, together with those to be discharged from other hospitals and people with learning disabilities who currently live in the community but require additional levels of care to ensure they stay out of institutional care.
- 4.3** The need has been identified for three developments consisting of 6 units of accommodation, each with an adjacent 24 hour staffed flat, together with a number of dispersed supported tenancies both in the vicinity of the core and further afield.

- 4.4 In response to a bid from the Council, Lanarkshire Health Board has made £488,000 available on a non-recurring basis for this financial year only, to assist implementation of the hospital discharge programmes. This has enabled early implementation of projects and will cover land acquisition costs, site preparation, initial development costs and non-recurring costs for adaptation, furniture and fittings.
- 4.5 Specifically, supported accommodation developments of the type referred to in 4.3 are planned in Blantyre Street, Coatbridge (in partnership with Beazer Homes and West of Scotland Housing Association) and in Reema Road, Bellshill (in partnership with Inverlink). Additional tenancies will be secured through negotiations with local Housing Associations and the Council's Housing Department. Local members are aware of these planned developments. To date it has not proved possible to secure a suitable site in Airdrie for a similar purpose.
- 4.6 In conjunction with the Housing Department the Department is currently exploring the need for additional residential accommodation for people with learning disabilities. Whilst there is already a substantial amount of this type of provision within the authority, which will continue to be used both for people leaving hospital and those already in the community, there is evidence that people with complex health and social care needs often have to move outwith the authority to have their needs met.

5. PROVISION OF CARE

- 5.1 Following consultation with the Convenor of Social Work in accordance with the Council's standing orders relating to contracts for social care, the Department entered into negotiations with preferred service providers. Providers selected demonstrated a proven track record in delivering the desired models of care; a capacity to involve service users and carers in the planning and delivery of care; an ability to work in partnership with staff from a range of agencies and settings; and the ability to deliver care packages within defined cost parameters, so securing value for money in the use of public funds.
- 5.2 Negotiations are currently progressing with the Richmond Fellowship (Scotland) in respect of 15 people in the mental health programme and 30 people in the learning disability programme and in respect of up to 12 people in the learning disability programme with Quarriers.
- 5.3 Individuals will be referred to these projects on a progressive basis over the next 18 months which will allow a carefully planned expansion of provision. The core costs of Richmond Fellowship will require to be funded in the initial period with subsequent funding necessary to cover costs associated with meeting the individual needs of people referred. The ultimate value of the contracts will be determined by the assessed needs of service users but will be in line with the financial framework agreed with Health Boards in the Joint Community Care Plan.

5.4 Additional care contracts will require to be placed as the learning disability programme moves forward. Further discussions with providers will be reported to Committee at a later date.

5.5 Supporting people with complex needs in the community is not a cheap option and the cost of funding care arrangements for people who move out of hospital is frequently more expensive than the care they received in hospital. However experience suggests that the initial required levels of care reduce as people adjust to their new surroundings and their needs change, allowing others to be additionally supported without necessarily incurring major increases in costs.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Whilst there are no direct personnel implications for the Council it should be noted that placing the care contracts described is likely to result in the creation of over 200 new jobs in the authority area.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The actions described in this report are in keeping with a previous Committee report which set out the principles and approach to the management of planned hospital discharge programmes.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Committee is requested to:

- ♦ endorse the approach taken to implement planned hospital discharge programmes;
- ♦ note that the Director of Social Work will bring forward a report on detailed contractual arrangements to a future Planning & Administration (Sub-Committee);
- ♦ otherwise note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
16th September 1997

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