

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

<p>Social Work Committee</p> <p>Date : 20 January 1998</p>	<p>Subject : A Framework for Mental Health Services in Scotland - a document from The Scottish Office</p>
<p>From :</p> <p>Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work</p> <p>Prepared by :</p> <p>Brian McGuire, Principal Officer (Community Care)</p>	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Committee on the content of The Scottish Office Framework for Mental Health Services in Scotland and of progress towards implementation in North Lanarkshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Office produced a consultation draft in late 1996 the contents of which were reported to Committee on 16 December 1996. A joint response from the Council and Lanarkshire Health Board was sent to The Scottish Office on 31 January 1997.
- 2.2 The present document, while taking account of the comments received on the earlier draft, does not differ substantially in content or direction.

3. THE FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 The Framework spells out in considerable detail government policy on mental health services. It is designed to assist in the development of a joint approach at local level to the planning, commissioning and delivery of a comprehensive integrated mental health service.
- 3.2 The key messages of the Framework are:
- the need to review current provision;
 - the need to identify current spending on mental health services and to ensure that resources are being used effectively;
 - that local agencies must work in collaboration at all levels;
 - that comprehensive integrated services should be provided locally, based on sound inter-agency agreements and protocols;
 - that priority should be accorded to those with severe and/or enduring mental health problems, including dementia.

3.3 The Framework is in two parts, namely the Framework document itself which sets out the essential features of a local mental health strategy, and a large appendix providing detailed guidance under three main sections - Process Elements, Core Service Elements, and Service Profiles.

3.4 In addition to the Framework a package of initiatives and other documents to support its implementation have been announced. These are:

(i) Mental Health Development Fund

This is designed to encourage the development of local community-focused services, by providing pump-priming monies to Health Boards to enable them to develop new ways of working with G.Ps, trusts, local authorities and voluntary agencies. The sum of £3m per annum is available over three years but financial support is limited to first year funding only.

(ii) Scottish Development Centre for Mental Health Services

The S.D.C. is a not-for-profit independent organisation which provides development assistance, consultancy, training, research and evaluation work in the field of mental health. The Scottish Office provided launch aid for the initiative.

(iii) Local Care Partnerships

This scheme invites bids for funding in support of partnership arrangements between Health Boards, G.Ps, N.H.S. trusts, local authorities and other agencies in the effective and efficient local integration of health, housing and social care services.

(iv) Making it Happen

This is a document which accompanies the Framework and provides a working guide to its implementation.

(v) Guide to Good Practice and Advocacy

This document was recently produced by the Scottish Health Advisory Service and is the subject of a separate report to Committee in the present cycle.

(vi) SNAP Reports on Mental Health

The Scottish Needs Assessment Programme has produced a series of reports on mental health issues which have informed the development of the Framework and should provide a useful source of information for those involved in developing local mental health strategies.

3.5 The document provides a timetable for the development and implementation of the proposals. By December 1997 partner agencies are to:

- confirm joint aims and priorities;

- assess local needs for mental health services;
- undertake a service review; and
- identify existing resources.

By April 1998 a Joint Implementation Plan should be prepared (covering six years, i.e. two community care planning periods) to put in practice existing plans and new plans developed in response to the service review.

Between April and June 1998 the plan has to be discussed and agreed with The Scottish Office.

- 3.6 The Scottish Office will monitor implementation of the Framework but the detailed arrangements for this have still to be announced.
- 3.7 The main vehicle to be used in implementing the strategy will be a Joint Commissioning Team comprising representatives from the Health Board, Social Work, Housing, Primary Care, relevant Community and Mental Health Trusts, people who receive services and those who care for them, and the voluntary sector. The team will be charged with developing a local strategy for the delivery of comprehensive mental health services to which all participating organisations and interested parties can sign up without reserve.

4. PROGRESS IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

- 4.1 The Council has almost completed a review of its mental health services, where appropriate in partnership with Lanarkshire Health Board (e.g. the Community Mental Health Teams).
- 4.2 In accordance with step 1 of the "Making It Happen" document an initial meeting has taken place between the Director of Social Work and the General Manager of the Health Board. A further meeting was held on 16 December to discuss a programme for implementation of the Framework through the establishment of the joint implementation team. An early meeting with Greater Glasgow Health Board to agree arrangements for the Chryston area has been set.
- 4.3 The Joint Community Care Plan, a draft of which is currently the subject of consultation, has a chapter on mental health services and the work done in preparing this will inform the implementation of the Framework.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The Scottish Office has produced very detailed guidance on how planning for and implementation of mental health services are to be approached. There is a strong emphasis on collaboration at all levels with the production of clear protocols, a planning timetable, and a commitment to monitoring.

but the timescales are very short. It may be necessary over the next few months to approach The Scottish Office to negotiate an extension.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.



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08.12.97.

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