

AGENDA ITEM No. ... 7(a)

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: PHEW (Scotland) Ltd. Revised Maintenance Rates
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 21st April 1998	
REPORT AUTHOR: Jim Pitman	
REF: JRP/JM	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To set revised maintenance rates for Clifton House and Buchanan House respite units operated by PHEW (Scotland) Ltd.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Parental Help for Evenings and Weekends (Scotland) Ltd. (PHEW) is a small voluntary organisation operating two respite units for people with learning disabilities in Coatbridge. Clifton House has been operational since 1990, and Buchanan House opened in October 1997.
- 2.2 Clifton House is located in Kildonan Street, while Buchanan House was built at the same time as the Buchanan Street Resource Centre and the property costs are therefore included within the Resource Centre.
- 2.3 Until the present time, Clifton House operated five days a week, offering only two day or three day respite breaks. This resulted in families requiring longer periods of respite having to seek placements outwith North Lanarkshire. The service offered at Buchanan House is available service seven days a week.
- 2.4 Both services are registered to provide respite for adults with a learning disability, and at separate times to provide respite for children with special needs.

3 ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 Since the opening of Buchanan House, the organisation has gone through a period of some upheaval. Members of the voluntary management committee have experienced some difficulty in coping with the demands of the external management of two units and have faced significant challenges in establishing the new service. This has resulted in some resignations from the management committee.
- 3.2 The organisation sought the assistance of the Social Work Department in dealing with the organisational and management difficulties it has experienced in recent months, and has been working closely with staff in the Department to establish a more secure base for its future activities. Discussions are on-going with regard to the future composition of PHEW's management committee and it anticipated that recent problems can be resolved by the time of the organisations Annual General Meeting which is due to take place in the near future.
- 3.3 PHEW has confirmed its continuing commitment to working with the Department in determining the future requirement for respite services in North Lanarkshire, and to reviewing its services to enhance their accessibility. This commitment was a significant factor in its selection as provider for the new Buchanan Street respite service.
- 3.4 In consultation with the Social Work Department, the organisation recently conducted an immediate review of the service offered at both units. This review included a proposal for Clifton House moving to a seven day a week service, rationalisation of the staffing structures in both units and the operation of a common waiting list to maximise the availability of service offered by both units.

4 PROPOSED CHANGES IN SERVICE PROVIDED AND STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 It is proposed that Clifton House change from a five day service to seven days. This will have the effect of reducing the overall unit cost per day for the unit.
- 4.2 It is proposed to implement the same rationalised staffing structures in both units and staff within the units have been consulted on the proposals and their agreement secured. The Department also is in agreement with the proposed structures which remove the post of Depute Manager but increase direct care provision.
- 4.3 As a result of its discussions with the Department, PHEW also proposes to appoint a part-time external manager, responsible to the management committee for the running of the two projects. The Department considers this essential to provide effective management of the projects.
- 4.4 It is proposed to bring forward a separate report to the Planning and Administration Sub-Committee dealing with registration adjustments to reflect the changes outlined above, and any other organisational changes which PHEW may propose.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The maintenance rates for both establishments will be reviewed in the normal method to reflect any pay awards when these have been settled. In the meantime, it is necessary to set interim rates to reflect the proposals described in section 4 above.

5.2 In the interim the revised rates proposed are:

	Old Rate	New Rate
Clifton House	£132 per day	£120.50 per day
Buchanan Street	£130.93 per day	£132.60 per day

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee

- (i) approve the proposal that Clifton House move to provide a seven day service with immediate effect;
- (ii) note the rationalisation of the staffing structures in Clifton House and Buchanan House;
- (iii) approve the interim revised maintenance rates set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report, with effect from 1 April 1998; and
- (iv) otherwise note the terms of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
2nd April 1998

For further information on this report please contact, Jim Pitman, Principal Officer (Finance and Administration) (TEL: 01698 332021)