

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject:  <b>SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN GLASGOW HOSPITALS - CHARGE FOR NORTH LANARKSHIRE RESIDENTS</b>
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 25 August 1998	
REPORT AUTHOR: Alexis Jay	
REF: AJ/AMQ	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Committee of Glasgow City Councils decision to levy a charge for social work services provided within Glasgow hospitals to patients who are residents from other local authority areas outwith Glasgow and obtain approval for North Lanarkshire funding.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 At local government reorganisation each local authority within the previous Strathclyde area received the budget for the hospital based social work teams within their boundaries.
- 2.2 The various authorities agreed that in the first year after reorganisation there would be no charging for cross boundary services but that thereafter the situation would be subject to review.
- 2.3 Glasgow City Council therefore had disaggregated the budget to cover the cost of the Glasgow hospital based social work teams and during 1996/97 and 1997/98 provided a service within Glasgow hospitals to all patients regardless of where the patients residency lay.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 .As part of the budget savings agreed by Glasgow City Council on 11 March 1998 it was decided to levy a charge for social work service provided within Glasgow hospitals to patients who were residents from other local authority areas outwith Glasgow.
- 3.2 Authorities affected by this decision were only advised of the charge after the event, which precluded them from having considered the financial implications at the time they were setting their own budgets for 1998/99.
- 3.3 Subsequent to the Glasgow City Council decision, Glasgow Social Work Department carried out a workload analysis of the hospital social work service to establish a basis for apportioning costs to user authorities.
- 3.4 Meetings were convened by Glasgow with the five authorities affected by the change, (North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire) and options were discussed regarding the level of service to be provided by Glasgow and the basis for charging by Glasgow.

- 3.5 Following several meetings broad agreement has been reached regarding the level of service to be provided by Glasgow in 1998/99 and the charge which they will levy.

#### 4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Glasgow City Council will provide a screening service to North Lanarkshire patients in Glasgow hospitals.

- 4.2 This will mean that when there is contact between the hospital social work department and a North Lanarkshire based patient, an initial screening of the patient's requirements will be made. If their request is for immediate advice, guidance or information, which can be dealt with on a 'one off', or short-term basis, this will be provided. Re-start of a home care service would also be arranged by the Glasgow hospital social work team.

If, however their needs are more complex, for example, for a full community care assessment, then the hospital social worker will make immediate contact with North Lanarkshire Council Social Work Department and this assessment will be carried out by one of our staff.

#### 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The current indicative charge by Glasgow City Council for the screening service is as follows:-

Children and Maternity Hospitals	£11,783
General Hospitals	<u>16,164</u>
	<u>£27,947</u>

Psychiatric Hospitals Charge for work carried out on a basis of schedule of rates.

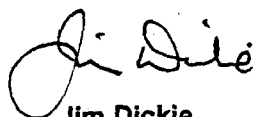
The above charge is subject to final agreement being reached by all authorities some of whom are still discussing the nature of service required by them in certain locations. There may therefore be some final adjustments necessary to the figures.

No budget exists within the Social Work Department for this expenditure and consideration should be given to requesting the necessary additional resources from the Policy and Resources Committee. A budget of £30,000 is required.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked to :-

- 6.1 Note the contents of the report.
- 6.2 Approve the proposals as outlined in 4.
- 6.3 Remit the report to the Policy and resources Committee seeking the additional resources outlined in 5 above.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**10 August 1998**

For further information on this report please contact Ronnie Paul Head of Social Work Resources, (01698 332003).