

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

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| TO: Social Work Committee | Subject: REVIEW OF IN-HOUSE RESIDENTIAL PROVISION FOR OLDER PEOPLE PROGRESS REPORT |
| FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work | |
| DATE OF COMMITTEE: 19 January 1999 | |
| REPORT AUTHOR: Alexis Jay | |
| REF: | |
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of progress made in reviewing in-house residential provision for older people, and to seek approval for the next stages of the review.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the inception of North Lanarkshire Council in 1996, there were 14 homes for older people run by the local authority. Four homes have since been closed. Decisions on closure were based on a number of factors, the most important of which were unit costs, physical standards of buildings, and the availability of local alternatives. When the last home was closed - Sir John Mann in Bellshill - it was agreed that a structured review of the remaining homes was necessary to provide options for determining the future role of the local authority as a direct service provider in this field.
- 2.2 The introduction of Best Value requires local authorities to examine their own services to demonstrate optimum value in spending public money, by comparing costs and quality with other providers, and taking into account the views of key stakeholders and local people in shaping future services. Residential provision for older people is scheduled for Year 3 of North Lanarkshire Council's Best Value rota.
- 2.3 The Accounts Commission has recently completed a study of local authority homes for older people in five Council areas. It has also included in the study a small sample of independent residential homes and nursing homes. This work compared costs and quality across local authority areas, and across care sectors. Its findings will be published in February, and it is likely to generate significant public interest in local authority residential care costs.

- 2.4 Recent Scottish Office guidance on Registration of Residential and other Establishments - reported to Committee in October - encouraged local authorities to prepare their own services for future registration and, pending the necessary legislation to enable this to happen, required local authorities to treat their own provision in the same way as the independent sector, so far as is possible.

3 PROGRESS OF THE REVIEW TO DATE

- 3.1 The structure for the review contains the following key elements

- Building Audit
- Analysis of Costs
- Projection of Future Needs
- Audit of Independent Sector Resources
- Citizen Consultation
- Development of Options

- 3.2 To date, work has been done in-house on many aspects of the first four items. Where costs are concerned, the Department has followed as far as possible the schedule used by the Accounts Commission in their study of residential homes, thereby laying the ground work for the Best Value review scheduled for the year 2000.

4 FURTHER WORK NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE REVIEW

- 4.1 To make further progress, it will be necessary for some public consultation to be undertaken with current and prospective users of services and also with citizens of North Lanarkshire. This is not only required to satisfy the principles of the Best Value approach but is also necessary to implement one of the key points set out in the Government action plan for community care, entitled "Modernising Community Care" and published in November 1998. This document identifies, amongst other things, that the Government wishes to see people who use services and their carers centrally involved in all decisions made about themselves and the services planned.
- 4.2 The main focus of the proposed consultation would concern the kinds of services people would like to see in place for themselves and their families as they get older, where they would like services to be provided and who they would like to provide them. This form of consultation is essentially individually focused, as opposed to the kind of consultation exercise in which the Council normally engages on Community Care which has been largely with representative organisations. People's views would be sought on community based care services, as well as residential services.

- 4.3 To be seen as a valid exercise, it would be essential that this type of consultation be carried out by an independent organisation. It would also be desirable that such consultation was conducted in conjunction with Lanarkshire Health Board, who are the principal partner with the local authority in developing Community Care services. An approach has been made to the Board to consider this proposal.
- 4.4 There are a relatively small number of organisations which have developed expertise in this type of consultation on behalf of local authorities and Health Boards. It is proposed selection of an appropriate organisation would be carried out jointly by the Department and the Health Board, on the basis of an outline specification and written submissions from interested organisations.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is proposed that a budget of £10,000 be identified from community care monies to fund the consultation exercise. As indicated, agreement from Lanarkshire Health Board is currently being sought to a joint consultation exercise. If successful this would attract joint funding to meet the costs of the project.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The Social Work Department is mid-way through a review of its in-house residential provision for older people, involving to date a detailed analysis of costs, standards, quality, resources and future needs.
- 6.2 To progress further with the review and to ensure that service planning is informed by what current and future service users wish to see in place for care in their old age, it is necessary to arrange independent public consultation with a sample of individual citizens

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked:

- [i] to note the progress made in the review of in-house residential provision for older people
- [ii] to approve the proposed action in relation to consultation at a maximum cost to the Council of £10, 000 from community care monies



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