

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT

<p>Social Work Committee : 19 January 1999</p>	<p>Subject : Winter Bed Pressure - Funding Proposals</p>
<p>From : Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work Prepared by : Jim Nisbet, Principal Officer (Community Care)</p>	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises Committee of funding secured from Lanarkshire Health Board to ease the pressure which demand at the winter period places on acute beds in hospitals.
- 1.2 The report also seeks approval for the proposed use of the funding secured.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Office have made available to Health Boards non-recurrent funding to help to cope with winter bed pressures within the Acute Services sector and in particular with hospital beds in this sector. While Lanarkshire Health Board has identified local measures to address these pressures with this funding, the opportunity exists to offer social work support.
- 2.2 Lanarkshire Health Board invited bids from social work in the form of proposals for utilising around £300,000 of this funding.

3. THE CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Committee will be aware from earlier reports, that demand for residential and nursing home placements and occupational therapy equipment and adaptations is presently much greater than available budget, with consequent waiting lists for such services. At Social Work Committee of 24th November, 1998, proposed action regarding these waiting lists was approved.
- 3.2 In considering proposals for utilising this funding opportunity presented by the Health Board, the above noted services were highlighted as priority areas which would meet the criteria of reducing pressure on the Acute Services sector of the Health Service.
- 3.3 The department's bid to Lanarkshire Health Board was successful and the sum of £300,000, split equally between the two services aforementioned, has been made available to support the services.

4. RESIDENTIAL AND NURSING HOME PLACEMENTS

- 4.1 The position regarding the management and funding of nursing home and residential care placements was reported to Committee in the last cycle. At that time there were 77 people

awaiting funding for placements with the numbers increasing by approximately five per week.

- 4.2 The availability of the £150,000 funding from the Health Board has enabled significant action to be taken in relation to these members, to the extent that, at present, there are no people awaiting placement due to funding difficulties. Anyone now awaiting placement in residential or nursing home care will either not have identified an establishment of their choice or will be awaiting a vacancy in the establishment of their choice. In these cases, the department is required to follow the choice of Accommodation directions issued by the Scottish Office in 1993.

5. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS

- 5.1 The position regarding occupational therapy equipment and adaptations was reported to Committee in a joint social work/housing report in the last cycle. Despite significant progress having been made in this area of service, waiting lists continue to be a feature of this service.
- 5.2 In considering how best to utilise this additional funding, two specific proposals have been identified.
- 5.2.1 Consultation with the Housing Department suggests that a number of adaptations eligible for Housing Improvement Grant have been delayed because the social work contribution is not available from within existing budgets. The cases all involve clients with identified assessed need and the social work contribution is valued at £15,000. This would enable a further £60,000 spend from housing budgets and would meet the needs of eighteen vulnerable clients with complex needs in the following areas:
- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Bellshill - 3 | Motherwell - 3 |
| Coatbridge - 5 | Airdrie - 4 |
| Cumbernauld - 3 | |
- 5.2.2 The highest outstanding priority need for equipment at present relates to provision of stairlifts. These items of equipment make a significant difference to the lives of disabled people and in many cases their provision would remove the need for hospitalisation. The remainder of the available funding, £135,000 would enable all of the highest priority cases in each area team awaiting the provision of a stairlift to have their needs met.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The availability of this one off funding demonstrates the value of corporate working, in this case between Health and Social Work agencies and between Social Work and Housing department colleagues. It will make an appreciable difference to the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens while easing the winter pressure on Acute Services in the Health Service. The Social Work Department will continue to seek such opportunities, including further scrutiny of its own budgets to ascertain if further funds can be released for similar initiatives.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the funding made available by the Health Board under the Winter Bed Pressures initiative
- (ii) endorse the decision to use £150,000 of this funding to reduce the waiting list for placements in nursing homes and independent sector residential care homes
- (iii) approve the proposals for the use of the £150,000 in the occupational therapy aids and adaptations service.



**JIM DICKIE,
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7TH JANUARY, 1999.**

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