

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject:  Embedded Chip Investigations
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 02-March 1999	
REPORT AUTHOR: I M Crawford	
REF: RP/IC/Yr2000/99	

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the current departmental progress in identifying potential problems due to Control System failures caused by Embedded Chips at the start of Year 2000.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Due to IT systems utilising only two digits when setting the calendar year we have been advised that there will be serious problems when we enter the year 2000 as those systems will be unable to distinguish between the year 1900 and the year 2000 thus causing them to fail at the start of year 2000.
- 2.2 A wide range of equipment is controlled by microprocessors which may be affected by the same problem
- 2.3 There is a whole range of equipment used within social work operational settings which is controlled by embedded chips. This equipment consists of items such as telephone systems, heating systems, lifts, alarm systems, cookers etc.
- 2.4 Many Social Work facilities provide services to very vulnerable clients and the consequences of a failure in any of the above systems could be severe.

### **3 PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 3.1 The department is preparing a list of all equipment in Social Work premises which may be controlled by computer chip(s).
- 3.2 The Department will liaise with Planning and Construction Services in preparing this list.
- 3.3 A survey form for Telephone equipment has been provided by IT section of Finance Department and this is currently being completed for all Social Work Units.
- 3.4 In order to prioritise the survey for Embedded Chips it was decided that Residential units should be covered first followed by Day Centres.
- 3.5 In December 1998 a survey form was sent to all unit managers requesting information on unit equipment and this was followed up by site visits.
- 3.6 All homes for older people have been visited and surveyed.
- 3.7 The following Childrens Homes have been visited and surveyed.  
Pine Court; Leslie street; Cecil street; Torrance avenue; Mitchell street; Bellshill
- 3.8 The following day units have been visited to date and surveyed.  
Merrystone House; Hallcraig Centre; Buchanan Centre; Antonine Centre:
- 3.9 The remaining Units will have been visited by the end of February 1999.

### **4 PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED TO DATE**

- 4.1 Heating systems at Herbison House and Meadowside have been identified as not compliant and will fail at the start of yr. 2000 if control system is not changed.
- 4.2 All units which had been involved in Strathclyde Energy Management pilot programme are also suspect and are being checked by Planning Section.  
This would certainly involve Hallcraig Day Care Centre and possibly also Buchanan Centre.
- 4.3 Through Planning Department and Construction Services manufacturers of equipment identified in Social Work premises will be contacted to ascertain whether they contain computer control chips and if so whether they may fail.

### **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

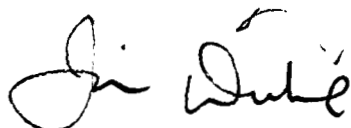
- 5.1 The approximate cost of replacing heating control systems is £3,000 per unit.
- 5.2 A further report will be made to committee when full scale of problem and its costs are available.

### **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Committee should note the contents of this report and authorise the director to establish a programme for the replacement of such control systems as may be required.

## 7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 These are held by the Principal Officer (Personnel and Training)



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**18 February 1999**

For further information on this report please contact, J.M. Crawford, Principal Officer (Personnel and Training) (TEL: 01698 332037)

North Lanarkshire Council  
 Department of Social Work  
 Year 2000 Programme  
 Embedded Chip Identification

Type of Unit	Number	Priority	Questionnaires Completed	Surveyed	Problems Identified	Clear
Residential Elderly	10	1	10	10	Heating Controls	
Residential Child Care	6	2	5	5		
Hostels	3	3	2	2		
Day Care Centre	4	4	2	2		
Adult Training Centre	6	5	2	2	Heating Controls	
Intermediate Treatment	5	6				
Area Office	6	7				
Sub Offices	2	7				
Headquarters	1	8				
Projects	26	9				