

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee & Housing Committee	Subject: REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 2 March 1999	
REPORT AUTHOR: Duncan Mackay	
REF: DM/CM	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises Committee of a review of services to people with learning disabilities being undertaken by the Scottish Office.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 24 December 1998, following an initial one day conference on the topic, the Social Work Services Inspectorate section of the Scottish Office issued a letter advising that they intended to undertake the above. They invited responses from local authorities and other agencies by 12 February 1999.

3 CONTENT OF REVIEW

- 3.1 The purpose of the review is to develop a national framework for learning disability services by December 1999.

- 3.2 The only paperwork issued by the Scottish Office to date consists of a brief letter setting out a set of principles that will inform the review. It also highlights the key points which emerged from the conference discussions, namely the need:

- ◆ for positive values, attitudes and cultures
- ◆ to empower people who use services and their carers
- ◆ to develop partnerships for improved service delivery
- ◆ to address resourcing questions locally and nationally

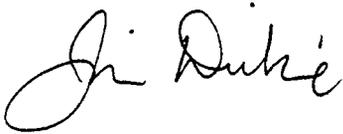
4 JOINT RESPONSE

- 4.1 As recently reported to Committee a Project Manager to lead the development of a joint learning disability strategy has been appointed by Lanarkshire Health Board. It was agreed by joint planning partners that the post holder should co-ordinate a joint response to the Scottish Office, signed by the General Manager of Lanarkshire Health Board on behalf of partner agencies. The response submitted is attached at Appendix 1.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

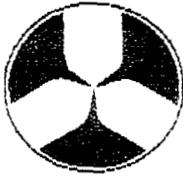
5.1 Committee is asked:

- (i) to note the contents of this report
- (ii) to remit this report to Housing Committee for information.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
10th February 1999

For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Principal Officer (Planning & Development) (TEL: 01698 332072)



LANARKSHIRE HEALTH BOARD

OUR REF: TD/RR/CLB

14 Beckford Street.
Hamilton
ML3 0TA

YOUR REF:

If telephoning, ask for:

Telephone: (01698) 281313
Fax No.: (01698) 423134

12 February 1999

Mrs G Ottley
Assistant Chief Inspector
The Scottish Office
Home Department
Social Work Services Inspectorate
James Craig Walk
EDINBURGH EH1 3BA

Dear Mrs Ottley

**LANARKSHIRE'S JOINT PARTNERS RESPONSE TO THE SCOTTISH
OFFICE LEARNING DISABILITY CIRCULAR**

The Lanarkshire Planning Partners welcome the opportunity provided by the National Review and look forward to continuing involvement in the formulation of a Strategic Framework for Learning Disability Services.

We fully support the principles contained in the annex to your letter and feel this provides a basis for further development.

At a recent stakeholder event, facilitated by the NDI, to commence the development of a local strategy, we started to address the points outlined in your letter. We therefore submit the paper prepared from that day for information.

Please get in touch if you would like more details.

Yours sincerely

for TOM DIVERS
GENERAL MANAGER

On behalf of the Lanarkshire Joint Planning Partners
Lanarkshire Health Board
Lanarkshire Healthcare NHS Trust
North Lanarkshire Council
South Lanarkshire Council
Scottish Homes

**SUMMARY
LANARKSHIRE LEARNING DISABILITIES STAKEHOLDER EVENT
FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 1998**

MISSION

At a preliminary stakeholders event we defined our mission as the following:

- to produce a living document that is open to new thinking;
- a strategy that can change and develop through a process in which people with learning disabilities and carers have made an active and valuable contribution at every stage;
- a strategy that is plainly written, accessible and "do-able".

CRITICAL ISSUES

A number of issues were identified at this time as being critical to a review of services for people with learning disabilities, namely:

- development of a plan that involves people and sets direction and pathways; development of services for those not in hospital;
- increase choice for all;
- employment opportunities;
- acceptance and inclusion in our communities;
- co-ordinated and prompt resettlement;
- good generic health services, particularly primary care, linked and integrated to competent specialist learning disability services;
- integrated structures and processes/ pooled budgets;
- decisions about the shape of NIIS treatment services and the future of Kirklands and Birkwood hospitals;
- improving quality now in hospitals.

VISION

Our vision for future services included:

- clarification of the roles of different professionals;
- new staff roles – new relationship, respect and equality;
- people in your life who keep in touch and guide/ support;
- carers who are informed, supported and confident about services and the future;
- greater confidence and independence;
- continuing education and relevant training;
- homes, jobs and money for all;
- active lives - daytimes, weekends, evenings;
- influence;
- high quality health and social care within the community;

- no one having to live in hospital;
- choices;
- status;
- safety.

ENVIRONMENT / OPPORTUNITIES

- The Planning Partners are committed to working in partnership with users, carers and other stakeholders to develop community based services with stakeholder events. The scope for joint commissioning, a pooled budget and multi-disciplinary working will be examined;
- The Joint Community Care Plans 1997 - 2000 set out priorities in meeting needs;
- modernising agenda;
- joint working mandate;
- new rules on bridging finance;
- emerging national strategy;
- Scottish parliament;
- user & carer involvement;
- local partnerships;
- emergence of advocacy;
- community teams, with skill and enthusiasm;
- commitment to change at all levels.

GOOD PRACTICE

- advocacy;
- commitment to change;
- self advocacy through the Herb Lovat Lunch Group and the Living Here residents' day;
- recognition of the importance of co-ordination, information and support for individuals at times of transition;
- the work of the Beattie Committee has particular relevance in relation to post school provision;
- person centred planning for resettlement and day supports.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES / VALUES

- right to participate in decisions about one's life and to influence plans and services;
- starting and finishing with the individual to create sensitive responsive services;
- time to learn and be heard;
- two-way learning;
- independence;
- choice in all its forms;
- acceptance of difference and diversity that starts in childhood;
- independent advocacy;

- access - buildings, information and language;
- development of everybody's potential – individual and family;
- age - appropriate services and practice;
- recognition of rights of the individual and carers involvement/inclusion in the community as a matter of choice;
- jointness between agencies and professionals;
- The Learning Disability Strategy project to include all stakeholders.