

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: REVISED REGISTRATION GUIDELINES
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 30 March 1999	
REF: DOD/EOC	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend to Committee the adoption of revised registration guidelines developed to inform care providers of standards required for initial and continued registration and, to define procedures for Officers in undertaking tasks associated with registration and enforcement.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The legislative background for matters pertaining to the registration of residential and day services is set out in the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and the Registered Establishments (Scotland) Act 1987.
- 2.2 A recent Scottish Office Circular SWSG 11/98, entitled "Community Care Registration of Residential and other Establishments for Adults and Children" signalled future changes to the legislative arrangements relevant to registration and updated guidance to local authorities.
- 2.3 The registration guidelines currently worked to are those in place at the time of local government reorganisation in 1996.

3 NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL PROCEDURES

- 3.1 Revised draft guidelines have been drawn up by the Department. These update and develop the interim procedures to take account of changes in Scottish Office Guidance and operational experience over the past 3 years. It is the intention of the guidelines to express and ensure high quality care is achieved and maintained across all residential services provided by the independent sector.
- 3.2 A copy of the revised draft guidelines has been placed in the members' library for reference.

- 3.3 Similar guidelines for registrable day services are currently being worked on and a copy will be placed in the members' library in due course.
- 3.4 On occasions where it has been necessary to either impose conditions or to cancel registration, Committee will be aware of the importance placed on the content and quality of information provided within registration guidelines insofar as it reflects the policy of the Council.

4 CHARGING

- 4.1 Currently the charge for registration guidelines is £25 per copy. It is proposed that this is revised and updated to £30 per copy when the finalised guidelines are available for issue.

5 FUTURE GUIDANCE ON REGISTRATION

- 5.1 A White Paper is due in the near future which is expected to propose relocation of regulatory functions associated with registration and inspection to a national agency independent of local authorities.
- 5.2 Timescales for legislative change and implementation are unclear. In order to reflect changes in standards and local experience and developments in this area, it remains relevant that North Lanarkshire Council establishes local standards and registration arrangements which are as current and comprehensive as possible, for the use of applicants and officers engaged in registration.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that prior to finalising the guidelines, wider comment would be sought from representatives of the independent sector covering a wide range of client groups.

7 RECOMMENDATION

Committee is asked to approve the adoption of revised registration guidelines, subject to consultation with local provider organisations.

Kathy Somers

PP Jim Dickie
 Director of Social Work
 March 1999

For further information on this report please contact Dennis O'Donnell, Principal Officer (Registration/Inspection)
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