

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work DATE OF COMMITTEE: 30 March 1999 REF: DOD/EOC	Subject: ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SWSG 11/98 - COMMUNITY CARE: REGISTRATION OF RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises members of arrangements for implementing revised guidance to local authorities on registration, set out in Scottish Office Circular SWSG 11/98.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A report to Committee in October 1998 outlined the legislative intentions set out in the Circular. These included:

- ◆ preparation of the local authority's own services for future registration;
- ◆ inspection of local authority day services;
- ◆ improved joint working arrangements with Health Boards in areas of inspection.

- 2.2 The Registration and Inspection Unit has primary responsibility for regulation of independent sector residential and day services through registration and inspection, and for the inspection of local authority residential services.

- 2.3 Implementation of the main actions included in the Circular largely sit within the remit of the Registration and Inspection Unit, although there will be immediate implications for day services operated by the Social Work Department which will now be subject to regular arms length inspections.

3 PROPOSED ACTION ON GUIDANCE

Preparing local authority services for registration

- 3.1 The Circular makes clear that in advance of legislation, local authorities should take steps to treat their own direct provision, as far as possible, in the same way as the independent sector.

- 3.2 The Council directly provides twenty residential care establishments - 9 for older people, 7 for children and 4 for adults with learning disabilities.
- 3.3 It is proposed that during the course of the coming year, all of the Council's residential services will be assessed against current registration standards in the areas of staffing, accommodation and practice. This will identify specific actions and future resource implications for the local authority from meeting the policy intentions set out in the Circular.

Inspection of local authority day services

- 3.4 The Council provides fifteen day services which in terms of the revised guidance will require inspection, twice annually, by the arms length inspection team.
- 3.5 It is proposed to commence inspection of these services from April 1999.

4 WORKLOAD IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The regulatory workload of the Registration and Inspection Unit can fluctuate dependent on levels of compliance by service providers, which in turn determine whether or not enforcement action is necessary.
- 4.2 Members may be aware that the Scottish Office is currently arranging Tribunal Hearings to hear appeals against decisions taken by the Social Work (Registration) Sub Committee. This will have significant workload implications for staff in the Unit.
- 4.3 Implementation of inspection of day services will represent approximately a 25% increase in workload above current levels. It is proposed that the Department should endeavour to meet the additional workload implications associated with inspection of local authority day services from within existing staff resources, but that this should be subject to close monitoring to ensure continued compliance with inspection targets.
- 4.4 The proposed registration of local authority residential services would in due course represent a substantial further increase in workload. However, it is proposed to endeavour to carry out the preparatory work in the coming year, again from within existing staff resources.
- 4.5 During the current financial year, the Department has for the first time complied fully with the Scottish Office target to complete two inspections per annum for all services subject to Arms Length Inspection. This has been achieved with additional support through part time secondment of an experienced member of staff to ensure compliance with the target for inspections.
- 4.6 In the event of unforeseen enforcement demands emerging, the use of temporary inspection staff, previously approved by Committee, could be considered.

5 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Committee is requested to:

- (i) approve the proposed arrangements for the inspection of local authority day services;
- (ii) approve measures being taken by the Social Work Department to prepare their own services for future registration; and
- (iii) otherwise note the terms of this report.

Katny Somers

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Director of Social Work
24 March 1999

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