

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject:  White Paper: Aiming for Excellence: Modernising Social Work Services in Scotland.
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 8 June 1999	
REPORT AUTHOR: K Somers	
REF: KS/AB	

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee of the publication of a White Paper setting out the Government's proposals for modernising social work services in Scotland.

**2 CONTENTS OF WHITE PAPER**

- 2.1 The document makes new proposals for modernising social work services in the following areas:

- [a] Assuring Quality: this section deals with the development of a performance culture within social work, including an increased role for local authority elected members in scrutinising performance; the improvement of management information; a greater emphasis on inspection and accreditation; and a stronger focus on the key factors of focusing on individuals, effective corporate working, effective partnerships and cost effectiveness.
- [b] A Strategic Framework for Children's Services including an emphasis on Social Inclusion; the Children's Services Development fund which identifies three priorities - foster care, advocacy for children and expansion of family centres; improved safeguards for children; and the introduction of a statutory Consultancy Index containing information on people considered unsuitable to work with children and young people.
- [c] Regulation of Care Services: proposals include the creation of a new agency, the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care, which will be responsible for the regulation of all residential accommodation (including nursing and residential homes), home care, day care and adoption and fostering.
- [d] Regulation of the Workforce: through the creation of a Scottish Social Services Council which will require registration of staff in certain key groups as a pre-condition before they can be employed or can continue in employment. The Social Services Council will have key functions to maintain registers of specified groups of staff; regulate professional and vocational education; and publish codes of conduct and practice for all staff.

### 3 IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 The Social Work Services Group letter which accompanied the White paper signalled the Government's intention to move quickly with the preparatory work to bring about the proposed changes, some of which will require legislation by the Scottish Parliament.
- 3.2 The White Paper will have major implications for the organisation and delivery of certain aspects of social work services and will require fuller consideration by the Social Work Committee. It is proposed that a series of reports dealing with each section of the Paper will be brought forward in due course to the Committee.

### 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Committee is invited to:
- [i] note that more detailed reports on the matters covered in the White Paper 'Aiming for Excellence' will be brought forward in due course for the Committee's consideration; and
  - [ii] otherwise note the terms of the report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**June 1999**

*For further information on this report please contact, K Somers, Head of Social Work Development (TEL: 01698 332010)*