

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee Housing Committee	Subject:
FROM: Jim Dickie, Director of Social Work Gavin Whitefield, Director of Housing	<b>Lanarkshire Health Board Bridging Finance: Funding for Capital and Assessment Workers</b>
DATE OF SW COMMITTEE: 8th June 1999	
DATE OF HOUSING: 16th June 1999	
REPORT AUTHOR: Duncan Mackay	
REF: JD/DM/SR	

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise elected members of monies being made available by Lanarkshire Health Board for implementing planned hospital discharge programmes for people with learning disabilities. The report has been produced in consultation with the Director of Housing.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Under previously agreed plans North Lanarkshire Council has a responsibility to arrange social care services for 91 people with learning disabilities leaving long stay hospital care, in the initial phase of the programme. The majority live in Kirklands and Birkwood Hospitals, but there are also smaller numbers in Royal Scottish National Hospital, Larbert and Lennox Castle Hospital.
- 2.2 In 1997/8 Lanarkshire Health Board made available £426,000 capital which greatly assisted in the securing of 14 units of accommodation and 2 staffed units.
- 2.3 The balance of this phase of the programme remaining to discharge for North Lanarkshire is 32, 9 for whom accommodation has already been secured. Of the remaining 23, 14 presently stay in hospitals outwith Lanarkshire.
- 2.4 It is recognised by the joint planning partners that there remain many people with learning disabilities still resident in long stay hospital care who do not require to be there. Work is progressing to identify appropriate numbers for future discharge.
- 2.5 North Lanarkshire Social Work Department receives an agreed level of resource transfer funding from Lanarkshire Health Board which is used to pay for the direct care of people leaving hospital and the development of community based services designed to prevent future hospital admissions.

- 2.6 No hospital bed reductions take place without the following conditions being put in place:
- ◆ no individual will be discharged without a full assessment of their needs;
  - ◆ individuals will be offered a better quality of life than that available to them in hospital;
  - ◆ community services must be in place before hospital beds are close;
  - ◆ resources released from hospitals must be invested in replacement health and social care services; and
  - ◆ a sufficient level of good quality long stay NHS hospital care must be maintained to meet the needs of those who require this form of care.

### **3 ACCOMMODATION AND CARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PEOPLE IN THE LEARNING DISABILITY PROGRAMME**

- 3.1 North Lanarkshire Council, Scottish Homes and housing associations are working to meet the accommodation needs of individuals in the discharge programme. Individuals will gain suitable housing through allocations to existing Council, Scottish Homes or housing association stock through direct allocation or nomination. Additionally suitable housing may be secured through house purchase or construction or to housing association new build stock secured by a capital grant contribution.
- 3.2 To complete phase 1 and facilitate phase 2 of the discharge programme, substantial capital investment is required to meet the housing needs of individuals being discharged from hospital. Lanarkshire Health Board has indicated that it will contribute up to £400,000 of non-recurring monies in year 1999/2000. The capital will be accessed for housing developments in North and South Lanarkshire and will assist in providing suitable accommodation, adaptations, alarm systems, furnishings and fittings. It is anticipated that a similar amount will be made available in 2000/2001.
- 3.3 The Health Board recognise that the programme cannot be achieved within the required timescales without the appointment of additional social work assessment staff to assess the needs of people leaving hospital care. They have agreed to fund 2 such posts from Health Board monies. Early recruitment of staff is essential if the discharge timescales are to be achieved.
- 3.4 It is proposed that two new posts of Care Co-ordinators (Learning Disability) should be created on APIV/V/QSW scale; staff recruited to these posts will require knowledge and particular skills in the assessments of needs and design of individualised services for people leaving hospital. It is anticipated that Health Service staff with nursing or other relevant qualifications would be eligible for recruitment to the posts and should this be the case secondment on an appropriate Health Service scale would be considered. Once the hospital discharge assessments are completed, the posts would form part of the locally based infrastructure of assessment and care management services for people with learning disability.

3.5 The contribution made by Lanarkshire Health Board is to be welcomed as an important step in assisting people with learning disabilities move from long stay hospital care to fully supported community settings.

#### 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Committee is requested to:

- (i) remit this report to Personnel Committee for their urgent approval for the establishment of two Care Co-ordinator (Learning Disability) APIV/V/QSW posts ; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.



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

*For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Principal Officer (Planning & Development) (TEL: 01698 332067)*