

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee.	Subject: Provision of Day Care for Older People - Funding Issues
FROM: J Dickie, Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 24 August 1999	
REPORT AUTHOR: K Somers	
REF:	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To bring to the attention of Committee issues concerning the future funding of Wishaw Resource Centre for the Elderly and to propose an urgent review of day care services provided and funded by the Social Work Department.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Wishaw Resource Centre for the Elderly is a voluntary sector service centred on Bonkle Parish Church which provides care for some 38 elderly people on a weekly basis. The service was first established in 1991 and was originally funded through the Urban Programme.
- 2.2 Following consideration by Policy and Resources Committee in 1998, funding was obtained to continue the project until March 1999 with the intention that the service would in the future be funded on a contractual basis by the Social Work Department. Policy and Resources Committee subsequently approved two further temporary periods of funding for the current financial year, to allow time for Social Work Department to review the project and bring forward proposals for its long term future. Current funding arrangements are due to terminate at the end of September 1999.
- 2.3 No provision exists in the Social work budget for the service, which has recurring revenue costs of £87,600.

3 SUMMARY OF REVIEW

- 3.1 The Director of Social Work has now completed a review of the project. This process involved detailed consultations with users of the service, with their carers, and with the staff, volunteers and Management Committee. Consultations also took place with the Registration and Inspection section of the Department.
- 3.2 The review confirmed that service provided was valued by service users, their carers and the Social Work Department as meeting the needs of older people in the area; however the service could not meet registerable standards in its present location.

- 3.3 The review recommended that subject to the availability of funding, the service should continue.

4 PROPOSED REVIEW OF DAY CARE PROVISION

- 4.1 Day care for older people is provided in a range of facilities or Centres. Departmental provision accounts for the vast majority of places (in separate centres and within residential homes for older people) and there is a significant level of voluntary sector provision with only one private provider contracted to provide a day service.
- 4.2 From April 1999, the Council's own provision has been subject to arms length inspection and this is expected to raise inspection issues which the Council will require to address. In the longer term, the Council's services will be subject to the proposed external registration and inspection regime.
- 4.3 In the absence of budgets to continue the funding of the Wishaw Resource Centre, the Department has carried out preliminary work to examine the range and costs of day services for older people provided across the authority to examine the scope for reshaping the services within existing levels of funding.
- 4.4 Initial findings suggest that:
- ◆ day care services provide a valuable and valued service to older people within a significant age range and differing levels of frailty
 - ◆ the service lacks definition and eligibility criteria; as a result, assessments of need are sometimes vague
 - the service is not consistent in terms of facilities on offer, tasks carried out or times available
 - ◆ there are variations in the levels of service between areas, in the balance of registerable personal care services and social and recreational day services and some anomalies of gradings and levels of staffing and funding. There are also some variations in the extent to which services are provided which relate directly to assessed needs.
- 4.5 In the light of this initial review, the Department would wish to bring forward a fuller report setting out proposals for the future reshaping, strategic development and funding of day services within the current social work budget.
- 4.6 It is intended to bring forward a further report as a matter of urgency in order to make proposals regarding future funding for the Wishaw Resource Centre for the Elderly. In the meantime, it is proposed to continue on a month to month basis funding of the service from the existing social work budget.

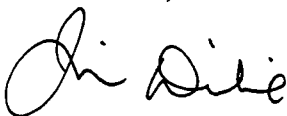
- 4.7 The attention of members is drawn to Social Inclusion Partnership funded Utheo Ltd Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre in Bellshill which includes a day centre for older people. Although the focus is largely social and recreational, it provides a service to 16 elderly persons who have been assessed by the Social Work Department as having complex needs. The organisation has intimated that it hopes to secure funding from the Social Work Department to continue the day services at the end of this financial year, when SIP funding is due to expire. No provision exists in the Social Work budget for this service and it is suggested that the forthcoming report should also cover this project.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Full year funding for Wishaw Resource Centre for the Elderly is £87,000. The full year revenue costs of the Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre are £99,980, the greater part of which funds the day centre provision.
- 5.2 The interim costs of continued funding of the Wishaw Resource Centre for the Elderly will be £7,250 per month to be met within existing community care budgets.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a) notes that a further report on provision of day care for older people will be brought forward as a matter of urgency;
 - b) approves interim funding to the Wishaw Resource Centre for the Elderly on a month to month basis;
 - c) otherwise notes the terms of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
17 August 1999

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