

EXCERPT OF MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1999

MODERNISING COMMUNITY CARE - THE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION

6. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of the Housing Committee held on 10 March 1999 when, inter alia, it was noted that an Inter-Agency Housing Group would be established to evaluate the impact of the proposals on modernising community care and submit a report to future meetings of the Housing and Social Work Committees, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 18 August 1999 by the Director of Housing and Property Services providing an update on the contents and implications of the final draft of the document "Modernising Community Care - The Housing Contribution" issued by the Scottish Executive, July 1999 (1) detailing the background to the issue of the guidance by the Scottish Executive; (2) intimating that the guidance outlined the current and future issues which would impact on the ability of housing providers to respond to individuals with community care needs; (3) indicating that the essential role of housing in achieving community care objectives was recognised in the guidance, although difficulties in joint working between Housing, Social Work and Health Authorities had been identified as being factors which impeded the implementation of community care; (4) providing a summary of the guidance in Appendix 1 to the report; (5) detailing the implications of the guidance for North Lanarkshire, and (6) advising that the document Modernising Community Care had been the subject of a report to the Joint Planning Steering Group on 26 January 1999 when it was agreed to set up an Inter-Agency Working Group with the remit of preparing a joint report for the implementation of the housing guidance within North Lanarkshire.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report and guidance be noted;
- (2) that it be noted that North Lanarkshire Housing Group would evaluate the impact of the guidance proposals which would be the subject of future reports to the Housing and Property Services Committee;
- (3) that it be noted that the content of the guidance would be taken into account in the development and operation of future North Lanarkshire Council community care strategies and policies, and
- (4) that the report be referred to the Social Work Committee for information.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: MODERNISING COMMUNITY CARE THE HOUSING CONTRIBUTION - A GUIDANCE NOTE
From: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES		
Date: 18 August 1999	Ref: GSW/AP/JM/2	

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the contents and implications of the final draft of the document *"Modernising Community Care - The Housing Contribution"* issued by the Scottish Executive, July 1999.

2 Background

- 2.1 Modernising Community Care - The Housing Contribution - A Guidance Note was produced by the Scottish Executive, Development Department in July 1999. The content of the guidance document has changed very little from the draft guidance issued for comment in December 1998. Where there are changes, this relates to emphasis rather than content.
- 2.2 The purpose given for issuing the guidance by the Scottish Executive is:

"...to help housing, social work, health and other agencies to overcome administrative obstacles to co-operation on housing and community care in order to achieve the fundamental aim of enabling people with community care needs to live at home wherever practicable and it is their choice."

Co-operation should include:

"...the statutory, voluntary and private sectors, and take account of the views of users and their carers."

- 2.3 It is also stated in the introduction to the guidance that it:

"...supplements and complements existing guidance, notably the guidance in "Community Care - The Housing Dimension" (The Scottish Office, August 1994)."

and that it:

"...draws on the substantial existing body of guidance on community care, including housing issues."

- 2.4 The essential role of housing in achieving community care objectives is recognised within the guidance. However, difficulties in joint working between housing, social work and health are identified as factors which impede the implementation of community care.

2.5 The guidance outlines current and future issues that will impact on the housing providers ability to respond to individuals with community care needs. These are identified as:

- Ensuring a balance in developing services between community care client groups that recognises the needs of the increasing population of older people, particularly those over 85 years of age, whilst developing a range of services and housing options for other community care groups; that is, people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, alcohol or drug dependencies, or HIV/AIDS.
- The need to take account of central government's "Social Inclusion Strategy" (March 1999) and "Social Inclusion - Opening the Door to a Better Scotland" which are designed to promote the integration of people into the community.
- Ensuring that Best Value principles are used to secure better results for community care users and their carers through a person centred approach, better and quicker decision making and better joint working between statutory agencies.

2.6 The guidance is aimed principally at the housing sector, especially those who work on community care issues, although it is equally of value to social work, health and other agencies who work with housing to provide care, particularly in a home setting.

3 Content

3.1 The guidance sets out general principles of good practice together with some illustrated examples of how these principles can be developed and implemented. Supported living arrangements developed by North Lanarkshire Council are given as one example of best practice within the Implementation section, whilst the Development Agreements as negotiated between North Lanarkshire Council and Housing Association providers are also cited as appropriate documents for clarifying the roles and responsibilities of participating agencies in the development and management of housing for community care groups. Although best practice models are given, there is a recognition that any models used by councils must take account of local needs and circumstances.

3.2 A summary of the guidance is given in Appendix 1 of the report.

4 Implications for North Lanarkshire

4.1 The guidance focuses on the need for all agencies who contribute to the development and implementation of community care strategies to work together to enable people with community care needs to live in their own home whenever practicable. However, the importance of housing allocation / re-housing, assistance with aids and adaptations, and information and advice is recognised as an essential element for ensuring the implementation of community care strategies. The guidance therefore impacts upon community care policies and strategies of all joint planning partners.

4.2 The guidance suggests a significant shift from the traditional models of community care accommodation and care services that separates the provision of accommodation from the support services and opens up a range of housing and support options to people traditionally cared for in residential settings.

4.3 The strategic enabling role of the housing department in the development of appropriate housing / accommodation for community care groups is recognised.

- 4.4 The guidance proposes a radical change in the way that community care services, including housing / accommodation, are planned, resourced, delivered and monitored. The clear directive within the guidance is for all agencies to develop a partnership approach to planning, commissioning, assessment and service delivery that delivers quicker and better outcomes, tailored to the needs of users and carers and incorporates Best Value principles.
- 4.5 The scope of the guidance is extensive, however the expectation being placed on housing departments and their partnership agencies is that, in a way specific to their locality and circumstances, they will incorporate the principles of best practice outlined in the guidance within local community care plans and services. North Lanarkshire Council through the development of supported living arrangements has laid the foundations within the Council departments and its planning partners for a reconfiguration of community care services.
- 4.6 This approach moves towards the separation of housing need from support, giving people with community care needs access to a range of housing options with flexible support that is sustainable, and that takes account of the views of users and carers in the planning and design of the accommodation and support provided. It is this development that has been recognised by the Scottish Executive as a model of best practice to be considered by other councils.

5 Consultation with Joint Planning Partners

- 5.1 The document Modernising Community Care has been the subject of a report to the Joint Planning Steering Group on 26 January 1999, where it was agreed to set up an inter-agency working group with the remit of preparing a joint report for the implementation of the housing guidance within North Lanarkshire, which would carry out an audit of current care services and accommodation, identify models of future community care services and develop an agreed implementation strategy that was informed by the requirements of the guidance document.
- 5.2 The inter-agency Housing Group, which is a sub group of the Joint Planning Steering Group, has been re-established to undertake this work.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Housing and Property Services Committee is asked to:
- 6.1.1 note the contents of this report regarding the guidance;
 - 6.1.2 note that North Lanarkshire Housing Group will evaluate the impact of the guidance proposals which will be the subject of future reports to Housing and Property Services Committee;
 - 6.1.3 note that the content of the guidance will be taken into account in the development and operation of future North Lanarkshire Council community care strategies and policies;
 - 6.1.4 refer this report to Social Work Committee for information.

7 Background Papers

- 7.1 Background information is available from the Housing and Property Services Department.



Gavin Whitefield
Director of Housing and Property Services

Modernising Community Care - The Housing Contribution - A Guidance Note

Summary

- **Section 1 - Introduction.**
- **Section 2 - Strategic Planning:** issues, including the involvement of housing providers, users and carers in the community care strategy planning process.
- **Section 3 - Locality Planning and Working:** emphasises the need to develop a bottom up approach to locality planning that sets this within the corporate planning process and ensures consistency with the community care plan. This section also reiterates the need to develop mechanisms for the sharing and exchange of information that allows a partnership approach to developing housing and support for individuals.
- **Section 4 - Implementation:** develops the theme of translating strategic objectives into desired outcomes on the ground. This section highlights the streamlining of the decision making process through lead commissioning, joint commissioning and grouped budgets as of value in implementation. However, the importance of inter-agency protocols that detail procedures for information exchange, roles and responsibilities, and accountability of agencies and staff are also recognised as necessary to facilitate the implementation of strategies.
- **Section 5 - Individual Assessments and Reassessments:** the importance of integrated approaches, including the role of joint and shared assessments, and self assessment in streamlining access to services and reducing duplication and confusion for users and carers is highlighted.
- **Section 6 - Hospital Discharges:** from both long stay and acute sections emphasises the need for effective inter-agency liaison and a range of methods for procuring housing that takes account of the needs of users and carers.
- **Section 7 - The Home Based Approach:- Re-Housing and Staying Put:** explores the role of housing providers in allocating tenancies to people from a variety of community care groups, ensuring access to security of tenure and housing rights, and the way in which the council can help people to continue to live in their homes by providing information and advice, and assistance with aids and adaptations.
- **Section 8 - Management Arrangements in Housing with Support:** details ways of separating the accommodation provision from the support service thereby providing security of tenure to individuals and flexible support service tailored to individual needs.
- **Section 9 - Performance Review:** will ensure Best Value principles are applied and that community care objectives are being met against an agreed set of standards and clearly determined lines of agency accountability.