

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: A SHARED APPROACH: DEVELOPING ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES A REPORT BY THE ACCOUNTS COMMISSION
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 23 November 1999	
REPORT AUTHOR: Charles Swan	
REF: CS/CM	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of a report issued by the Accounts Commission for Scotland entitled "A Shared Approach: Developing Adult Mental Health Services."

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Accounts Commission is a statutory, independent body which through the audit process sets out to assist local authorities and the health service in Scotland to achieve high standards of financial stewardship and the economic, efficient and effective use of their resources.
- 2.2 The report is produced at a time of change for adult mental health services with a progressive move towards comprehensive community based services in line with the objectives outlined in the "Framework for Mental Health Services in Scotland" and community care policy.

3 CONTENT OF REPORT

- 3.1 The report identifies a number of key factors necessary to change the way mental health services for adults are delivered and to ensure that local needs are met, namely:
- ◆ the active involvement of users and carers
 - ◆ the identification of all the resources available for mental health services
 - ◆ genuine partnership working between local agencies as no single agency can commission or provide all the elements of a comprehensive service
 - ◆ the efficient use of mental health resources
 - ◆ the shared development and use of information on local needs; the quality, cost and efficiency of services; and outcomes for individual users.

- 3.1 The report provides information on the scale and distribution of adult mental health services and on the extent to which specialist community mental health resources are targeted towards people with the most severe mental health problems.
- 3.2 Unsurprisingly the report indicates that no area in Scotland has yet in place a comprehensive range of social and health care services for adults with mental health problems. It recognises that progress is being made but suggests that statutory agencies will find it difficult to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of services, or be able to monitor the extent to which services are changing in line with government, without better shared local information and the involvement of users and carers in service evaluation and care planning

4 NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL POSITION

- 4.1 The Framework for Mental Health Services strategy for North Lanarkshire was reported to Committee in November 1998 and issued earlier this year.
- 4.2 The Mental Health Development Fund and other sources of funding have been used to finance a number of joint local initiatives with Lanarkshire Health Board:
- ◆ A User and Carer development team based at Lanarkshire Health Board has been established to help people with mental health problems and their families become properly engaged in the planning and delivery of their care and treatment.
 - ◆ A 'Resource Network' of community services for adults with mental health problems is currently being devised and will contain the range of elements necessary to form a comprehensive pattern of local services.
 - ◆ A specific research project concerning the needs of people with severe and or enduring mental illness has been commissioned.
 - ◆ A joint agency approach to assessment and care management of community services for older people with mental health problems including dementia is being progressed.
 - ◆ The Connections project to support homeless people with mental health problems has been established.
- 4.3 In addition both agencies are currently engaged in the specification and commissioning of independent advocacy for people with mental health problems including dementia.

5 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of this report



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
October 1999

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