

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: "The Same as You?": National Review of Services for People with a Learning Disability
FROM: Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 6 June 2000	
REPORT AUTHOR: K Somers	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the publication of the Scottish Executive led national review of Services for People with a learning disability.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 1999, the Scottish Executive commenced a national review of services for people with a learning disability. The review has now been concluded and published in a report entitled "The Same as You?".
- 2.2 The review was based on work carried out by four main groups. These were an interdepartmental steering group; a multidisciplinary working group; a users' and carers' group; and a stakeholders' group made up of experts in the field.
- 2.3 There was a strong emphasis on consultation and user and carer participation throughout the review. Written views were invited; an interactive web site was established, and a programme of 11 user and carer road shows were held in different parts of Scotland. In addition the review teams carried out site visits and meetings across the country, held four major conferences as well as smaller workshops, and carried out research, surveys and analysis on a number of areas including social, health care and housing, research into the needs of people with profound and multiple disabilities and challenging behaviour.
- 2.4 The evidence and recommendations of the review relate to services for both adults and children.

3 VISION AND PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 The national vision for people with a learning disability is entirely consistent with the vision inherent in the community care plan and the local strategy in Lanarkshire, which has been developing in parallel with the national review.

3.2 The vision is that people with a learning disability should:

- ◆ be included, and live in the community;
- ◆ be the centre of decision making and have more control over their care;
- ◆ have information about their needs and the services available;
- ◆ have opportunities for employment, and to develop as individuals;
- ◆ benefit from new person centered approaches and get added value from services;
- ◆ be better understood and supported by the communities in which they live; and
- ◆ have a circle of friends and enjoy leisure pursuits.

3.3 The review sets out seven principles which are viewed as central to helping people with learning disabilities lead full and active lives. Again, these are entirely consistent with the principles already endorsed by North Lanarkshire Council and its joint planning partners. Social inclusion, valuing people as individuals, choice, and access to appropriate local services are emphasised.

4 PROPOSED WAY AHEAD/ RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The review emphasises that a major scale of change is needed in Scotland to deliver the outcomes required for and improve the future for people with learning disabilities. It is explicit in recognising that additional resources will be required by local authorities. A number of practical measures are proposed:

- ◆ **Personal life plans** for everyone with a learning disability who wants one.
- ◆ A **network** for people with an **autistic spectrum disorder**, managed nationally.
- ◆ Local authorities and health boards should provide **more modern day services**.
- ◆ Health boards and local authorities should develop **more community based short breaks**.
- ◆ A **change fund** is to be introduced to help local authorities move quickly towards the vision, to be launched **April 2001**.
- ◆ A **new Scottish centre** for learning disabilities is to be established in **Spring 2001**.
- ◆ **Partnership in practice agreements** to be introduced by **1 June 2001** and fully in place by **Summer 2002** - intended to provide a clear focus for local authorities and health boards to work together to develop services.
- ◆ The introduction of **local area coordinators** to help improve local services, by **Summer 2002**.
- ◆ Strengthening people's entitlement to **direct payments, to become mandatory by 2003**.
- ◆ All long stay **hospitals to close by 2005**

- 4.2 The report makes a total of 29 recommendations, addressed in the main to local authorities and Health Board.
- 4.3 Copies of the review and summary document will be placed in the Members' library.

5 LOCAL CONSIDERATION OF THE REVIEW

- 5.1 As indicated, a strategic review of services for people with learning disability has been proceeding in Lanarkshire in parallel with the national review. The local strategy has been the subject of widespread consultation and is due to be launched for formal consultation in North Lanarkshire on 28 June. There is a high degree of consistency between the findings of the Lanarkshire review and those of the national review.
- 5.2 It is proposed that the recommendations of the national review should be the subject of more detailed discussion between the joint planning partners through the Lanarkshire strategy group with a view to the submission of a joint response in the autumn. This would be brought back for the Committee's consideration.
- 5.3 The establishment of a Scottish Centre for learning disability is to be particularly welcomed. There would be significant benefits in locating the proposed centre outwith Edinburgh, and North Lanarkshire would provide an ideal location in terms of accessibility and the Council's strong commitment to inclusive services for people with a learning disability.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Committee is asked to:
- [a] welcome the publication of the national review of services for people with a learning disability;
 - [b] endorse an initial response to the document which:
 - [i] registers the Council's strong support for inclusive services for people with a learning disability;
 - [ii] recommends that the proposed Scottish Centre for Learning Disability should be located in a way which reflects the Scottish Executive's commitment to the dispersal of government agencies across the country;
 - [iii] signals the Council's interest in finding a suitable location in North Lanarkshire for the proposed Scottish Centre;

- [c] approve a process of detailed consideration of the recommendations at interagency level;
- [d] note that a further report proposing a detailed response to the review's recommendations will be brought forward in due course for the Committee's consideration; and
- [e] remit the report to Housing and Property Services and Education Committees for their interest.



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Director of Social Work

31 May 2000

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