

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: JOINT EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS WORKING GROUP
FROM: Director of Social Work	
DATE OF SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 6 June 2000	
REPORT AUTHOR: Duncan Mackay	
REF:	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises Committee of progress made to date by the Joint Equipment and Adaptations Working Group.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A report to Social Work and Housing Committees on 5 October 1999 identified a number of issues relating to the assessment and provision of community equipment and adaptations. Committee approved a recommendation to establish a joint officer/member working group.
- 2.2 The group met for the first time on 7 December 1999 and has subsequently met monthly thereafter. It is intended to present a full report to Committees in September 2000.

3 MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership of the group is as follows:
 Councillors: H. McGuigan (Chair), P. Sullivan, T. Selfridge, J. Shaw, S. Grant, G. Murray, E. Irvine, G. Mclaughlin.
 Social Work: K. Somers, R. Miller, D Mackay, M. Dendy
 Housing: T. McKenzie, J. Gormley
 Service Users & Carers: M. Smith, K. Morgan, M. Moncrieff (Lanarkshire Community Care Forum)
 Health: C. Cunningham

4 REMIT

4.1 The remit of the group is to:

- (a) examine and make recommendations on the planning, assessment, funding and delivery of equipment and adaptations services in North Lanarkshire
- (b) examine and make recommendations on the range of specialist services provided to assist disabled people and issues relevant to the recruitment, deployment and functions of specialist staff
- (c) examine and make recommendations on the adequacy of information made available to disabled people
- (d) make recommendations for improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of services provided or funded by North Lanarkshire Council, taking account of the needs of disabled people in the Council's area, the resources available to the Council and other relevant agencies, and the views of representatives of disabled people and service users
- (e) make such other recommendations as the Working Group considers appropriate with regard to related community care services for disabled persons in the Council's area and the co-ordination of the Council's wider duties towards people with disabilities.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Meetings took place with North Lanarkshire Coalition of Disabled People, Lanarkshire Community Care Forum and users of the Alpha Project to discuss how service users wish to be engaged in this process. In partnership with other service and carer organisations the Forum have agreed to stage a stakeholders conference. This is scheduled to take place on 13 June 2000.
- 5.2 In respect of housing providers, a sub group with representation from Scottish Homes and Housing Associations meets. In respect of health, there is a sub group which includes representation from the Acute Trust and 2 Local Health Care Co-operative (LHCC) General Managers.
- 5.3 A staff reference group has also been established with housing and social work representation and this has generated some proposals for service improvement. Elected members have met with staff from both Departments in 2 divisional meetings, which elicited a wide range of issues and views. In these settings staff have provided valuable insights into the problems facing the service and made a number of constructive suggestions for improvement.

6 MAIN ISSUES

6.1 The agenda for this group is substantial and the nature of problems about current provision complex. To date the group has considered papers profiling a typical local budget and priorities; options on charging policies; examples of best practice elsewhere; feedback from visits to service users. Whilst there are obvious resourcing issues, there is also widespread recognition that services could be organised more effectively and efficiently

6.2 Issues raised to date that are likely to become a high priority for action include:

- ◆ Access to, and quality of, information
- ◆ The assessment process and scope for change
- ◆ The supply, storing, fitting, demonstrating and maintenance of equipment
- ◆ Retention and deployment of staff, and designation of responsibilities
- ◆ Variations in access to service both geographically and by housing sector.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the progress made by the Working Group to date; and
- (ii) remit the report to Housing Committee for its interest.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
May 2000

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