

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: Member/Officer Working Group: Homes for the Future
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 6th June 2000	
REPORT AUTHOR: Jim Nisbet, Principal Officer, Community Care	
REF: JD/JN/HS	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the work of the Member Officer Group reviewing the Council's in-house residential care services for older people.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Homes for the Future Working Group was established following a report to the Social Work Committee in October, 1999. The report outlined a need for a major review of the Council's own residential provision in view of forthcoming changes in registration criteria, deterioration of buildings and a best value perspective.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 There are eleven elected members on the review group led by Councillors McGuigan and Selfridge. The other members are Councillors Gerard McLaughlan, Donna Morris, George Devine, John Gordon, Jim McKinlay, Jean Jones, Sandra Cox, Elizabeth Irvine and Margaret Murray. The officers involved in the review are Ronnie Paul, Head of Social Work Resources, Jim Nisbet, Principal Officer (Community Care) and Helga Schultz, Admin Officer. As significant stakeholders, colleagues from Health and Housing were co-opted on to the group and are represented by Roy Watts, Head of Planning and Priority Services, Lanarkshire Health Board and Pamela Humphries, Development Manager, Housing and Property Services.

4. REMIT

4.1 The remit for the group is -

- (i) to review the operation of the council's in-house residential provision for older people, to ensure that best value is being achieved in terms of cost and quality long term;
- (ii) to make recommendations for the council's future strategy on the provision of service for older people who require long term accommodation and support.

5. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 5.1 The working group has been meeting since December, 1999, meets approximately every three weeks and is scheduled to report to the Social work committee later this year.

A programme of meetings, visits and consultation events have been planned. All ten homes have been visited by small groups of the working group members and a brief profile of each establishment has been produced. Visits concentrated on the fabric of the buildings and on space standards, quality of accommodation and facilities available. The feasibility of creating single rooms and en-suite facilities in all homes has been considered, this being agreed as a desirable standard for the future. Following the visits, only one home drew significant adverse criticism in relation to standards and quality of accommodation but many were considered to require upgrading.

- 5.2 At present, the group are researching a range of other accommodation options, including a number being pursued by other authorities who have engaged in a change agenda. A further programme of visits has been arranged to view alternative models of care such as very sheltered housing, assisted living units, independent sector residential and nursing home care and a single campus model of varying types of care provision.
- 5.3 A variety of methods of consultation with service users, carers and the wider community have been agreed. A consultancy group was selected to undertake consultation using random and selected questionnaire groups, focus groups and individual interviews. This will be overseen by Glasgow University who work with the consultancy group. A conference was arranged for 7th April, 2000 and was fronted by the Lanarkshire Elderly Forum.
- 5.4 Future meetings will consider cost and quality issues, care and support at home and options for change. Following this a report on options for change will be presented to Committee for consideration.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 A variety of methods of consultation with service users, carers, staff and the wider community have been agreed.
- (i) A consultancy group was selected to undertake consultation using random and selected questionnaire groups, focus groups and individual interviews. This will be overseen by Glasgow University who work closely with the consultancy group.
 - (ii) A staff reference group is being formed as a sub group of the Member/Officer group. This will enable the views of staff to inform the debate and will assist in sharing ideas and current professional thinking in the field.
 - (iii) The views of current residents of homes for older people will be sought via residents' committees, special meetings and focus groups.
 - (iv) Audit Scotland (previously the Audit Commission) will support the work of the group by attending the next group meeting and offering knowledge, expertise and guidance.
 - (v) A conference has already been held on 7th April, 2000 in Motherwell. This event, arranged in close partnership with Lanarkshire Elderly Forum, was attended by over

fifty older people, many of whom were service users or elderly activists or representatives of organised groups.

- 6.2 The conference of 7th April, 2000 saw older people express firm views about social care services and the following key issues emerged.
- (i) Older people wish to be able to make positive choices about the kind of care they will receive.
 - (ii) Older people overwhelmingly wish to remain in their own homes with appropriate support.
 - (iii) The provision of Community Alarm services were considered to be a valued, important resource, maintaining independence, giving confidence and providing reassurance for many older people.
 - (iv) Day care services alleviate loneliness and social isolation for many older people including those with no specific care needs. Such services were highlighted by most delegates for their important role in preventing social, health and family breakdown and for maintaining independence in older people.
 - (v) Where institutional care is required, it should be local, good quality, afford privacy and be self contained with space standards and facilities available in ordinary homes.

7. FUTURE PLANS

- 7.1 Future meetings will concentrate on a range of issues including cost and quality factors, care and support at home and options for change.
- 7.2 It is anticipated that a report on options for change will be available for consideration by Committee later this year.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 Committee is asked to -
- (i) note the progress made by the Working Group to date and,
 - (ii) remit the report to the Housing committee for its interest.



**JIM DICKIE,
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK
MAY 2000.**

(For further information contact Jim Nisbet, Principal Officer, Community Care - Telephone 01698 332031)
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