

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: "We Want a Life"; Joint Learning Disability Strategy Launch and Consultation of Strategic Framework 2000
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 3rd October, 2000.	
REPORT AUTHOR: Anne Donald, Senior Community Care Officer	
REF: JD/JN/AD/HS	

1. CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report informs Committee of the launch of the Joint Learning Disability Strategy document, "We Want a Life".
- 1.2 The Joint Strategy document has been developed in partnership between Lanarkshire Health Board and North and South Lanarkshire Councils and aims to establish a modern community based service for people with learning disabilities and their carers.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This is a time of significant change in both health and social care for people with learning disabilities and their carers. At both local and national level it is agreed that services need to change, they should focus on including people with learning disabilities in the community, supporting their personal development and their carers. The balance of care needs to move from hospital or residential care to supported living in the community.
- 2.2 The recent Scottish Executive review "The Same You" recognises that services must do more to help people with learning disabilities achieve a full life. The task of local authorities and health agencies is to work together to help people to be included in community life, in education, in leisure and recreation, in day opportunities and in employment.
- 2.3 Lanarkshire planning partners (Lanarkshire Health Board and North and South Lanarkshire Councils), have prepared a strategic framework, "We Want A Life" to shape and develop services for people with learning disabilities. The strategy document was drawn up following a series of surveys, reviews and consultation involving people with learning disabilities, their carers and other stakeholders.

- 2.4 The strategy will assist the development of services for which the local authorities and the National Health Service (NHS) have responsibilities, including generic and specialist health care, Social Work, Housing, Leisure and Transport Services and Education.

3. LAUNCH OF THE STRATEGY

- 3.1 Two events were arranged for the launch; one in each of South Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire. The North Lanarkshire launch was held on 28th June, 2000 in Motherwell Concert Hall. Everyone who contributed to the framework was invited and those present included many people with learning disability and their carers, advocacy groups, health and social work staff and provider organisations.
- 3.2 The event was chaired by the Convenor of the Social Work Committee and officers from Social Work and Health spoke on local developments and the national strategy.
- 3.3 The launch included seven workshops which explored and recorded participants' views and priorities on key topics: homes, health, advocacy, transition/leaving school, respite and employment. Meaningful and constructive discussions among workshop participants led to clear proposals that were later communicated to the larger group.

4. CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 4.1 The launch was only one of several opportunities to comment on the strategy questionnaires have been distributed with the strategy document and meetings with staff and other stakeholders have been proposed.
- 4.2 The consultative process takes place until 30th September, 2000 and when responses have been considered and amendments made, the strategy will be reissued as a final framework.

5. IMPLICATIONS FOR NORTH LANARKSHIRE

- 5.1 The Learning Disability Strategy Framework, "We Want A Life", sets out a vision of improving services and has been prepared following consultation with people with learning disabilities and their carers.
- 5.2 The strategy has been proceeding in parallel with the National Review, "The Same As You", and there is a high degree of consistency between the findings of the two reviews.

5.3 The local authority will take the lead in developing services, recording these in joint community care plans and where appropriate in partnership as proposed in the National Review.

5.4 It is planned that a joint North Lanarkshire/South Lanarkshire response to both the local and national reviews be prepared and this will be brought forward for Committee's consideration.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Committee is requested to -

- note the contents of this report
- note that a report detailing the joint response of North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Councils to the local and national reviews, will be brought forward in due course for Committee.

6.2 Copies of the Lanarkshire Strategic Framework document, "We Want A Life", and the Scottish Executive Review document, "The Same As You", have been placed in the Members Library for information.



JIM DICKIE,
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK
26 September, 2000.

(For further information contact Anne Donald, Senior Community Care Officer - Telephone 01698 332046).