

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject:  <b>RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES</b>
FROM: Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 3 October 2000	
REPORT AUTHOR: M Fegan	
REF: MF/JM	

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise committee of the availability of additional funding from the Scottish Executive to Local Authorities during this financial year, primarily to tackle problems arising from delays to the discharge of patients from hospital. The report explains the intended purpose of the additional funding, the arrangements for its distribution, and the action plan which has been developed to use the money by 31 March 2001. Local Authority proposals required to be submitted to the Scottish Executive by 15th September 2000.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive has identified as a priority for Health Services and Local Authorities the need to prepare for winter pressure on Health Services, in particular acute hospital beds by addressing at an early stage the problems which arise from delays to the discharge of patients from hospital.
- 2.2 To assist/address these difficulties, the Scottish Executive has provided additional funding to Health Boards and Local Authorities.
- 2.3 The amounts available to each Local Authority, on receipt of satisfactory proposals, have been determined on the basis of applying the GAE distribution formulae for Community Care (the initial allocation) and in respect of North Lanarkshire totals £606,163. At the present time, the additional financial resources which are being made available are only for the current financial year and any proposals submitted to the Scottish Executive by the Council will require to take account of this.

#### 2.4 North Lanarkshire Action Plan.

A group comprising representatives from the Acute and Primary Care Trusts, Lanarkshire Health Board and North and South Lanarkshire Councils met to consider available information in relation to the cause of, and problems arising from delays to the discharge of patients from hospitals as well as considering recommendations to address the matter.

#### 2.5 Five key areas were identified which would address:

- reducing the delays of discharge of patients from hospital
- facilitating the early discharge of those patients who are admitted to hospital
- avoidance of hospital admission

#### 2.6 The areas which were agreed as requiring to be addressed in both the short term, medium term and long term included the following:

- reducing the number of people whose discharge from hospital is currently delayed
- early supported discharge
- extended rehabilitation
- intensive home support
- the avoidance of admission to hospital

#### 2.7 The proposals for the use of the additional monies by North Lanarkshire are consistent with the recommendations of the working group. The proposals are also consistent with the Council's Joint Community Care Plan and the Scottish Executive document (Modernising Community Care An Action Plan ) which was presented to an earlier Committee.

#### 2.8 The action plan includes:

- funding an additional 40 residential/nursing home placements from a mix of acute and primary care hospital beds
- provision of community alarms for all people 80 years plus who live alone
- additional mobile warden cover for the community alarm service
- fund core social work staffing of early response teams to be allocated within the two acute hospitals settings, this will include additional home care provision, additional OT technician availability, an additional equipment budget and shared multidisciplinary assessments

#### 2.9 As required by the offer of funding, the proposals have been agreed with the General Manager Lanarkshire Health Board and the Chief Executives of the Primary and Acute Trusts.

- 2.10 The cost of the proposals are in line with the additional funding of £606,163 which is being made available to the Council by the Scottish Executive.
- 2.11 The funding will only be made available subject to receipt of satisfactory proposals being submitted to the Scottish Executive.

### **3 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.
- 3.2 Request the Director of Social Work to provide an evaluation report on the use of the monies at the end of the period of funding, 31st March 2001, subject to the funding being made available by the Scottish Executive.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**21 September 2000**

*For further information on this report please contact M Fegan, Head of Social Work Services  
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