

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: Winter Bed Pressures - North Lanarkshire Council Social Work: Progress Report.
FROM: Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 25 January 2001	
REPORT AUTHOR: M Fegan	
REF: MF/AB	

**1 CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the progress being achieved in relation to the initiatives developed in North Lanarkshire with Health Service Colleagues to tackle winter bed pressures and to note the need for the development of further winter pressure initiatives in view of the recurring nature of the Scottish Executive funding.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Social Work Committee of 3 October 2000 was advised 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.
- 2.2 North Lanarkshire Council was awarded £606,163 to implement a range of initiatives which included the following objectives.
- ◆ Reducing the number of people whose discharge from hospital is currently delayed.
  - ◆ The development of two Early Supported Discharge teams.
  - ◆ The provision of intensive home support.
  - ◆ The avoidance of admission to hospital.
- 2.3 The action plan included.
- ◆ 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.
  - ◆ Funding for core Social Work staffing of Early Supported Discharge Teams to be allocated to the two acute hospital settings which cover North Lanarkshire. The teams will facilitate a multidisciplinary approach to service provision to ensure early hospital discharge or avoid unnecessary hospital admission.

### **3 PROGRESS TO DATE**

#### **3.1 Hospital Discharge Arrangements.**

Social Work staff are making a major contribution to initiatives aimed at reducing delayed discharges, particularly in acute and rehabilitation beds. A senior officer has been seconded to work with staff from the Acute and Primary Care Trusts in the Monklands and Law hospital sectors. Progress to date is as follows:.

- ◆ Nursing/residential care placements achieved - 56.
- ◆ People who have chosen to return home with support - 10.
- ◆ Number of people assessed as requiring continuing NHS care - 6.
- ◆ Of the remaining individuals who have had community care assessments completed, all 36 have funding allocated and are in the process of moving, or are awaiting imminent moves, or families are actively looking at residential/nursing home placements. In 3 cases, families appear to be delaying action without actually invoking the Health Service Appeals Procedures. At present, within North Lanarkshire there are 16 active appeals in progress within the NHS Appeals Procedures.

#### **3.2 Early Supported Discharge**

The Council has committed significant resources to Early Supported Discharge Teams and the seconded Officer, mentioned in paragraph 3.1 above together with more senior staff, including at Directorate level are driving this agenda in partnership with Health colleagues. Four Social Work staff have been identified to participate in the multi-disciplinary teams. Additional staff are being recruited to provide homecare, administration support and technician support. The Health Service is also recruiting team members such as OT's and Physiotherapists.

A multi-agency group is currently working on operating principles, eligibility criteria and the training needs of the different group members.

#### **3.3 Community Alarm Service**

A tender process is underway with bids due back before the end of January 2001. This will allow the provision of community alarms for those people aged 80 years plus who live alone who would wish a community alarm.

### 3.4 Additional Mobile Alarm Wardens

The process of recruitment of the additional mobile alarm wardens is underway.

### 3.5 Flu Vaccinations

Approximately 450 staff who have contact with vulnerable service users such as home support, and residential and day care staff have been vaccinated. It is expected that the numbers of staff vaccinated will increase.

## 4 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 The Scottish Executive has confirmed that the Winter Pressures money available to the Council will be on a recurring basis.

4.2 Discussions are underway with Health colleagues to consider the development of further joint initiatives consistent with the winter monies objectives for submission to the Scottish Executive. These proposals will be the subject of a report to Committee for consideration.

## 5 PROPOSALS

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- i] Note the significant progress made within North Lanarkshire to tackle winter bed pressures.
- ii] Request the Director of Social Work to submit a future report to Committee regarding the recurring winter pressures funding following consultation with Health Service colleagues.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**3 January 2001**

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