

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: Development of Respite Care Services for Children and Adults with Disabilities in North Lanarkshire
FROM: Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 22 March 2001	
REPORT AUTHOR: Ronald Paul	
REF: RP/MY	

**1. CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update Committee on progress in establishing a new respite and carers centre on the Pyramid Site in Motherwell.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Members will recollect that a report on the development of respite care services in North Lanarkshire was considered at Committee on 22 August 2000.
- 2.2 Committee in principle supported donating the Pyramid Site in Motherwell to PHEW, a voluntary organisation, for the purpose of developing a new respite and carers centre.
- 2.3 PHEW (Scotland) Limited had its origins almost 20 years ago when a group of parents of children with a profound learning disability and their friends set up an informal respite care service in the evenings and at weekends. Hence the acronym, "PHEW" - not an expression of relief, although undoubtedly there was some relief, but rather a description of the facility and its providers, namely Parental Help, Evenings and Weekends.
- 2.4 Over the years increased recognition of need - and demand - meant that the original group of parents, who had provided care in their own homes saw the need to expand.
- 2.5 PHEW now provide respite care on 2 sites for 11 people 24 hours per day, 363 days per year, only closing at Christmas. The demands of registration and the limitations of the accommodation as well as practice, mean that children and adults cannot be accommodated at the same time.
- 2.6 PHEW recognises the current deficiencies in the accommodation because of location, shared rooms, and lack of facilities for leisure and recreation and are determined to

embark on providing a new build "hotel-type" facility for adults and children with a profound learning disability.

- 2.7 The experience of PHEW indicates that all too often "respite care" has been seen as more of a "sitting service" rather than a positive learning and recreational experience and the Board of PHEW (Scotland) Limited are determined to provide standards of accommodation and leisure and recreational facilities of a level which might be expected of a good class hotel in order to bring the experience of respite care to a new level.
- 2.8 It is intended that this new facility will be significant in improving standards in respite care on a National basis but the Board are also determined that the needs of Carers will be met within the new facility, and to this end have included a Carer's Centre in plans for the facility. It is anticipated that the Carer's Centre will provide opportunities for informal meetings of Carers as well as information regarding services and benefits available to Carers.

### **3. PROGRESS TO DATE**

- 3.1 A design brief for the proposed Respite and Carers Centre has been produced by PHEW in consultation with the Social Work Department and with local organisations representing carer's groups.
- 3.2 PHEW have appointed GCA Ltd as their architects with the remit of developing the design brief into detailed plans and ultimately into the reality of a new state of the art unit.
- 3.3 GCA Ltd have consulted with the Planning Department regarding the proposals and have designed a centre meeting the requirements of the brief and of the Planning Department.
- 3.4 The proposals have been costed and PHEW at present is working on its business plan regarding the funding of the construction and ongoing running costs of the service.

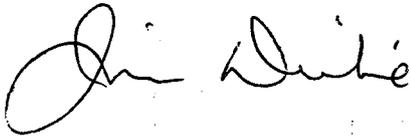
### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Initial projections indicate that the capital cost of the project will be £1.6 million. Funding for this is anticipated to come from a number of sources.
- 4.2 PHEW intends to submit an application to the Lottery Commission and it is hoped that £600,000 can be accessed from this source.
- 4.3 Contributions from the Health Board and the Social Work Department will also be required to ensure the viability of the project.

- 4.4 PHEW will fund approximately £500,000 of the project costs either through mortgage funding or accessing further charitable sources.
- 4.5 The Department of Social Work is in discussion at present with the Department of Administration to determine the contractual framework which will determine the relationship of the Council and PHEW in respect of the project.

**5. RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**6th March 2001**

*For further information on this report please contact R Paul, Head of Social Work Resources  
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