

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

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| TO: Social Work Committee        | Subject: <b>National Homecare Council:<br/>Executive Committee</b> |
| FROM: Director of Social Work    |  |
| DATE OF COMMITTEE: 22 March 2001 |  |
| REPORT AUTHOR: Jim Dickie        |  |
| REF: JD/JM                       |  |

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The National Homecare Council is a UK organisation which represents member local authorities involved in the provision of homecare services. The organisation has established representation from most UK local authorities and in order to further strengthen its work it is keen to include elected members in its Executive Committee. An invitation has been made to North Lanarkshire Council to nominate a member to the Executive Council and this report sets out the background and the Social Work Department's recommendation.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The National Homecare Council is a UK wide organisation which has 170 member authorities of the 211 authorities in the United Kingdom, with 30 of the 32 Scottish authorities included in that number.

2.2 The Council is a forum for elected members, officers and others concerned with the commissioning and direct provision of "care at home" services. It promotes national discussion and has strong links with ADSS and ADSW in England and Wales, and in Scotland respectively. The Council works with central government to increase understanding of "care at home" services and to represent the views of its members.

2.3 It liaises with other national and international groups to promote knowledge and understanding of homecare.

2.4 The National Homecare Council commissions and undertakes research, occasional papers and issues practice guidelines in support of the work of local authorities in the homecare field. It arranges specialist workshops for people involved in care at home services to explore key issues and to share experiences.

2.5 North Lanarkshire Council Social Work Department has recently undertaken a comprehensive review of its homecare services and has implemented recommendations of that review in 2000. During the process of the review, the

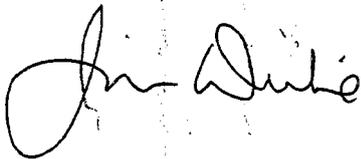
National Homecare Council was helpful in providing information and advice in the wider context of homecare services and it would be helpful to maintain the relationship in the next period, during which the development and extent of homecare services will change significantly.

### 3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The National Homecare Council has made a positive contribution to the development of homecare services in North Lanarkshire. The organisation provides a useful sounding board and support system for the development of high quality homecare services, with the opportunity to share and draw on the experience of authorities across the UK in general and Scotland in particular.
- 3.2 The invitation from the National Homecare Council for North Lanarkshire Council to nominate a representative to its Executive Committee, at elected member level, is to be welcomed.

### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the committee note the contents of the report.
- 4.2 That the invitation to nominate an elected member with a substitute should be accepted.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**13 March 2001**

*For further information on this report please contact J Dickie, Director of Social Work  
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