

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: REBUILDING OUR NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 25 th October 2001	Ref: JD/KM	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform committee of the guidelines contained within Rebuilding Our National Health Service in relation to the formation of the new NHS Boards.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Our National Health: A plan for action, a plan for change, December 2000, sets out the Scottish Executive's priorities for improving the health of the nation and building a modern, 21st century NHS. The Plan provides a clear statement of national priorities for health and reflects a widespread consensus for improvement and change.
- 2.2. The Plan is a milestone and a signpost on the way to a healthier Scotland. For key parts of the health and healthcare system it:
- describes where we are now and where we are going
 - sets out core aims, drawing on the views and concerns of a wide range of individuals and organisations
 - describes what needs to change and sets out how to take that action forward
- 2.3. The Plan acknowledges that there is a clear need to simplify, improve and rationalise the current local decision making arrangements and during 2001 will make the following changes:
- in each of the 15 NHS Health Board areas there will be a single unified NHS Board
 - these new unified NHS Boards will replace the separate board structures of the existing NHS Health Boards and NHS Trusts. (In this area the new NHS Board will be known as NHS Lanarkshire)
- 2.4. These new NHS Boards will form a single local health system, with single governing boards responsible for improving the health of their local populations and delivering the healthcare they require.
- 2.5. To provide guidance for all those concerned with detailed implementation of the policies set out in Our National Health the Scottish Executive published Rebuilding Our National Health Service in May 2001.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. To ensure that NHS Boards forge effective links with patients, staff and local communities so that their needs and views are put at the heart of service design and delivery it is proposed that:
- in their local areas Local Authorities should have a strong voice on the new NHS Boards
 - there should be staff membership on the new NHS Boards, nominated by the local Staff Partnership Forums
 - in each NHS Board area the existing separate Health Improvement Programmes and NHS Trust Implementation Plans should be replaced by a single comprehensive document- a Local Health Plan
- 3.2. Each NHS Board will be responsible for developing a single Local Health Plan to address the health Improvement, health inequalities and healthcare needs of the local population. This streamlined system will greatly reduce the bureaucracy of NHS planning, will form an integral part of the relevant Local Authorities' Community Plans and will link to Local Authority homelessness strategies.
- 3.3. Health improvement cannot be delivered by NHS Scotland in isolation. NHS Boards and Local Authorities must work closely together across a range of health and community planning issues. To reinforce this partnership there will be further promotion and greater integration of planning and decision making between local government, the NHS and other partners.
- 3.4 The direction of joint working is also underpinned in the recommendations from the Joint Future Group (December 2000)

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The new NHS Lanarkshire unified Board will include two Local Authority members who will have a key role in facilitating interaction and co-operation between the Local Authority, local NHS systems and the wider communities.
- 4.2. Councillor Jim McCabe, Leader of North Lanarkshire Council and Councillor Eddie McAvoy, Leader of South Lanarkshire Council, are the nominated local authority representatives for the NHS Lanarkshire Board.
- 4.3. It is the Council's view that the Depute Leader should be a member of the NHS Glasgow Board.
- 4.4. Although the Chairs of the Boards may have a view regarding the appointment of members to the Boards, the authority to make appointments lies with the Scottish Ministers.
- 4.5. While the Scottish Ministers will take account of position (e.g. Leader of the Council), appointments are made on individuals and this confers personal responsibilities rather than representative responsibilities.
- 4.6. It may be possible to have an informal arrangement reached regarding representation in the absence of the appointee. The legal acceptability of such an arrangement would require to be a matter for the Board and its advisers.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee are asked to note the content of this report.



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Director of Social Work
11th September 2001

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