

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE EDUCATION COMMITTEE		Subject: TRANSITION PLANNING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT - PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION		
Date: 25 <sup>th</sup> OCT. 2001 31 <sup>st</sup> OCT 2001	Ref: DM/DM	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report advises Committee of progress made by the Transition Planning Demonstration Project for young people with disabilities leaving school and seeks approval to appoint a Team Leader, (Transition Planning), jointly funded by Education, Social Work and Lanarkshire Primary Care NHS Trust.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In January 2000 Social Work and Education Committees approved funding for a development partnership with the National Development Team, focussing on planning and services for young people with disabilities leaving school. In July 2000 the Childrens Services Strategy Steering Group endorsed a proposal to use the partnership to support a Transition Planning Demonstration Project.

- 2.2. The Project operated from several key premises:

- That transition planning which seeks to bridge child and adult services was not yet functioning at levels that could be considered satisfactory by young people, their families and the statutory agencies involved;
- That young people and their families were not as centrally involved in this process as they require to be;
- That small but significant numbers of people leave school each year with complex needs that can only be met by individualised planning and creative service design;
- That most existing day services were not equipped to meet high levels of need or the aspirations of many young people with disabilities and their families.

- 2.3. The work of the project is overseen by a Transition Planning Steering Group consisting of senior officers from Social Work, Education and Health together with carer representatives.

### 3. PROGRESS REPORT

- 3.1. In the first year of the initiative the project has supported 8 identified young people with disabilities, 7 of whom left school in summer 2001. Staff were equipped with person-centred planning skills. Awareness raising and information sessions were held for carers. Of the 7 who left school, 4 now receive support designed around their individual needs, interests and aspirations for the future. 2 are attending college with clear ideas about what they want to achieve there and 1 person is being profiled for supported employment. 1 young person's support is being paid as a direct payment. Maximum Independent Living Fund (ILF) payments have been secured for 2 people, with applications made for the remainder.
- 3.2. The highly individualised approach to service planning and delivery demonstrates how it is possible to support people with complex needs in flexible and imaginative ways without recourse to more traditional service options. The project has built on work undertaken in partnership with ENABLE to support 6 young people who left school in summer 2000, initially without alternative services being put in place.
- 3.3. The Project is not sufficiently well advanced to be able to adopt an open door approach to referrals. A screening tool has been employed to identify those with the greatest priority. However it is recognised that there are many more school leavers who would benefit from a person-centred approach towards assessing and meeting their needs. It is estimated that there are over 50 young people with disabilities due to leave school in summer 2002. Some attend schools outwith North Lanarkshire who have not yet had recourse to this way of working.
- 3.4. It is evident that the scale of the task is growing and with it the need to better organise how services are planned and delivered to young people in transition. The task itself is complex and demanding, involving many different agencies and Departments. The level of needs presented by young people is far more extensive than it ever has been before, as more people are cared for at home. To date the only dedicated staffing attached to the Project is a part time Resource Worker post in Social Work. Social Work Committee of June 2001 approved the creation of 2 further Resource Workers to support the work. Approval is sought to jointly fund a Team Leader (Transition Planning) employed by Social Work, funded on a tripartite basis by Social Work, Education and Health.


### 4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS


- 4.1. The post of Team Leader (Transition Planning) is graded at PO2/5 and costs £30,509 calculated at mid point to include on costs, to be funded equally between by the 3 principal partners.

### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (a) approve the post of Team Leader (Transition Planning) to be funded by Social Work, Education and Lanarkshire Primary Care NHS Trust and;
- (b) remit this report to Policy & Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for approval; and
- (c) otherwise note the contents of this report.

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

  
**Michael O'Neil**  
**Director of Education**  
**3 October 2001**

For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Manager, Community Care (Adults)  
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