

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: SCOTTISH COMMISSION FOR THE REGULATION OF CARE /NATIONAL CARE STANDARDS
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 28 February 2002	Ref: DOD/EOC	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

1.1. This report informs members regarding imminent changes in regulatory arrangements and of the finalisation and publication of National Care Standards for the following services:

- care homes for older people
- care homes for people with physical and sensory impairments
- care homes for people with learning disabilities
- care homes for people with mental health problems
- care at home services
- services for people in criminal justice supported accommodation
- support services (day care)
- housing support services (sheltered housing, supported accommodation and others funded by housing and transitional housing benefits)
- care homes for people with drug and alcohol misuse
- adult placement services (placements with individual families for vulnerable adults)
- nurse agencies
- short breaks and respite services for adults

1.2. Members were previously informed of the transfer of regulatory responsibilities from local authorities and health boards to the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care (SCRC). That transfer takes place on 1 April 2002.

1.3. The national standards referred to above are amongst fifteen sets of standards which will underpin the new regulatory framework being implemented from 1 April 2002 by the SCRC. These have been distributed by the Scottish Executive to all local authorities and other relevant bodies. Remaining standards will be published in coming months.

## 2. BACKGROUND

2.1. The White Paper: Aiming for Excellence, published in March 1999 by the Scottish Executive set out its intentions and reasons for forming a national regulatory body and to develop national care standards.

2.2. Over the past 18 months a series of working groups, representing user, carer and provider interests, has devised and widely consulted on 15 separate sets of draft service standards. These were subsequently amended and endorsed by a National Standards Committee. Also, there has been

extensive consultation on the legislative changes necessary for the implementation of the SCRC, and its operation and on transfer of local authority staff.

- 2.3. North Lanarkshire Council has responded to the various consultations and regular reports outlining the Council's responses have been brought forward to Committee.

### **3. IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. The publication of these national standards is welcomed. National standards will provide the basis for service provision and its regulation in coming years. It is anticipated that published standards will assist to raise service standards, improve general understanding about standards and ensure greater consistency in the to delivery of care.
- 3.2. The standards are largely expressed as "desired outcomes" for residents. Reference is made to a few important but specific input standards, for example, in relation to single room provision and staff qualifications. There is no reference included to staffing level requirements. These will be negotiated and agreed with officers of the SCRC. Previous guidance has indicated that following the first service inspection by the SCRC, agreement will be sought with providers about time-scales for compliance with national standards and staffing.
- 3.3. Resource implications in meeting these standards will become more evident when the SCRC provides clearer guidance on registration requirements and agrees actions plans for existing services following initial inspections in 2002. It is already clear that implementation of national standards will have major implications for the Council in relation to buildings, staff, service delivery and operational procedures. A number of issues have already been taken into account by the officer /member working group developing a Home for the Future. Recent Committee approval has been given for required training for managers of services which will be subject to registration in future. It is proposed that further reports will be brought forward to Committee as implications in implementing national standards become clearer.
- 3.4. Members should note that whilst national standards are being issued for a wide range of social care services, not all of these services will be immediately subject to regulation by the SCRC. For example, Care at Home services will not be regulated by the Commission until April 2003
- 3.5. Appendix One summarises the phasing of regulation by the SCRC.
- 3.6. There have been wide ranging discussions with the Scottish Executive regarding the transfer of existing regulatory staff to the SCRC. It has been agreed that two Senior Registration & Inspection officers and one Clerical Assistant/Typist will transfer. The remaining staff have secured positions elsewhere or within the Department.

### **4. DISTRIBUTION OF STANDARDS**

- 4.1. As standards become available copies will be made available to all service managers and other appropriate groups. Copies will be located in the Members' Library for reference.

### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1. Committee is asked to:
  - (i) note the contents of this report.

- (ii) remit the Director of Social Work to bring forward further reports as implications in implementing national standards become clearer.



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**18 February 2002**

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