

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL WORK PRIORITIES 2002: DELAYED DISCHARGE ACTION PLANS - GREATER GLASGOW AND LANARKSHIRE NHS BOARDS
FROM: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
DATE: 22 AUGUST 2002      REF: JD/JN/NL	

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out proposals for use of North Lanarkshire's share of additional recurring funding to reduce delayed discharges in the Greater Glasgow and Lanarkshire NHS Board areas.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1. Reducing the number of patients waiting for discharge from hospital is a high priority for the Scottish Executive. At any one time, over two thousand people across Scotland who no longer need NHS care have their discharge from hospital delayed beyond six weeks, leaving one in ten NHS beds blocked for those needing medical treatment.

2.2. The Scottish Executive have allocated an additional £20 million funding, intended to ensure that 1000 (one thousand) extra people experiencing delayed discharge are transferred out of hospital and placed in more appropriate settings during the coming year, with a focus on those in acute sector beds and those waiting longer than one year for discharge.

2.3. Monies will be distributed to Health and Social Care Partnerships via NHS Boards. The Greater Glasgow NHS Board allocation is £3.796 million, to be spread between acute hospital services, primary care services and local authority services. The Lanarkshire allocation is £2.126 million, again spread between partnership agencies.

2.4. The two Health Boards have received monies from the Scottish Executive to provide the funding for the posts referred to in Section 3.

**3. PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

3.1 Two issues underpin considerations regarding use of the additional funding available to tackle delayed discharges in the Greater Glasgow NHS Board area. Firstly, the lack of a North Lanarkshire Council Social Work presence in Stobhill hospital, from where most of this Authorities delayed discharge patients located in Glasgow Hospitals (albeit a small number in total) originate. Secondly, the need for greater flexibility in establishing packages of care rapidly at the point of readiness for discharge.

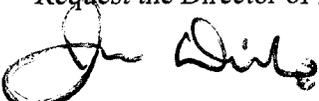
- 3.2 In view of the aforementioned considerations the proposals for use of the additional resources from the Greater Glasgow tranche of funding are as follows:
- i) Creation of a post of Social Work Assistant (Grade AP2/3), attached to Cumbernauld Area Team and with a specific responsibility for linking with hospital discharge in the Greater Glasgow NHS Board area.
  - ii) Creation of a flexibility budget within Cumbernauld Area Team to allow direct provision and/or purchasing of Home Care Services specifically for people awaiting discharge from hospital.
- 3.3 Detailed proposals, contained in the Lanarkshire partnership's "Delayed Discharge Action Plan" were approved by Committee in the last cycle. At present, discussion is still ongoing regarding operational arrangements for the proposals and the new resources contained within the plan. A small number of key posts have been identified for priority consideration to "kick start" the "Action Plan", these include:
- i) Creation of a post of Integrated Service Manager, grade P.O.8, to be created in the initial stays unit located in one of Monklands or Wishaw General Hospitals.
  - ii) Creation of a post of Senior Clerical Assistant, Grade GS3, to support the work of the Integrated Service managers.
  - iii) Creation of four posts of Social Work Assistant, grade AP 2/3, two in each of Monklands and Wishaw General Hospitals to assist with speedier assessment and discharge.
  - iv) There will be a requirement for GS1/2 administrative support. This is the subject of continuing discussions with Health. The outcome will be reported to a future Committee.
- 3.4 The post of Integrated Service Manager is proposed at grade P.O. 8 following detailed discussion with Health partners. The role will require interface at a very senior level within Health, Social Work and other partner agencies, daily negotiating with hospital Consultants, G.Ps and Operations Managers, and the postholder will report to a Planning Group comprising officers at Directorial level within the partner agencies.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The costs associated with the aforementioned proposals will be met from new, recurrent funding from the Scottish Executive as outlined in sections 2.3 of this report.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 Committee is requested to -
- i) Note the contents of this report
  - ii) Approve the creation of the posts of Integrated Service Manager, Grade P.O.8, Senior Clerical Assistant, Grade GS3 and Social Work Assistants x 5, Grade AP2/3.
  - iii) Remit this report to Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee for consideration.
  - iv) Request the Director of Social Work to bring forward progress report on the Action Plan.

  
**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**18<sup>th</sup> July 2002.**

*For further information on this report please contact Jim Nisbet, Manager, Older Peoples Services (Tel:01698 332031)*