

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: OLDER PEOPLES SERVICES: POST OF SENIOR OFFICER OLDER PEOPLE(DEMENTIA)
FROM: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 22 ND AUGUST 2002	
REF: JN/MD	

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of additional resources required to meet significant growth demands in older peoples services and to seek Committee approval in respect of the associated proposals.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Within North Lanarkshire Council there are approximately 38,000 older people. Demographic information suggests that the number of older people will steadily increase with most requiring high levels of support either in their own homes or in other care settings.
- 2.2. More specifically, the number of older people with dementia and with complex support needs at home and in care settings will show a very significant rise in the next five years. This is as a result of both demographic trends and improvements in health care meaning that, although older people are living longer, their care needs are often more complex and pose greater challenges for the delivery of quality care services.
- 2.3. Nationally, the focus on older peoples needs and services has grown with the introduction of Free Personal Care, the development of National Care Standards and the significant agendas arising from such as Community Care - A Joint Future and Modernising Community Care. " A Home for the Future" published by North Lanarkshire Council in 2001 and the Joint Housing and Social Work Strategy "Housing for Older People" are Council strategies aimed at developing older people's services in North Lanarkshire. Both nationally and locally the needs of older people are high priorities. More recently the focus on delayed discharges and avoidance of admission to hospital have placed an increased emphasis on the need to work at an operational level with Health colleagues to provide appropriate services for older people.

3. PROPOSALS/CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. With the introduction of many more flexible care services designed to maintain people at home an opportunity exists to make a real difference for older people, including those with dementia, in terms of their care provision. Opportunities are also being created in the field of new technology where for example smart technology is being targeted towards vulnerable older people again in order to maintain people at home but also to reduce the considerable strain which the demanding caring task places on carers. Care of older people, particularly of those with dementia, must therefore be at the cutting edge of flexible homecare, daycare and new technology provision to give suitable direction and lead the development of services and standards in the field.
- 3.2. There is a need for a focused overview on services for vulnerable older people in order to meet National and Council aspirations, to keep people at home by providing flexible and imaginative care packages for people who invariably have very complex care needs.
- 3.3. To assist the development of services to older people it is proposed that a senior officer post be created to address the aforementioned operational issues. The post would specifically target the development of services to people with dementia, focussing on smart technology, the dementia dimension in developing housing models for older people, specialist day and residential services for those with dementia and the major requirement of providing carer support and services to those who look after friends, relatives and neighbours with dementia.
- 3.4. The specific proposal is for the creation of a post of Senior Officer Older People (Dementia Services), Grade P.O. 2, to be located within the Older People's Team based at Social Work Headquarters. The grade is considered to be consistent with the duties outlined above and with other posts of a similar nature.

4. FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Funding for the above proposal would be met from development monies from the Scottish Executive.
- 4.2. The post would be graded at PO2 and be located within the Older Peoples Team based at Headquarters.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. Committee is asked to
 - (i) Approve the creation of the post of Senior Officer Older People (Dementia Services), Grade PO2, as indicated at section 3 of this report.
 - (ii) Remit this report to Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.
 - (iii) Note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
18th July 2002

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