

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: MEMBER/OFFICER REVIEW OF DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES: PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
Date: 22 AUGUST 2002	Ref: DM

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report advises Committee of progress made by the Member/Officer review of day opportunities for people with learning disabilities.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In May 2001 Committee approved the establishment of a Member/Officer review of day opportunities for people with learning disabilities. The reasons for the review were set out at that time, namely:

- Most people with learning disabilities attend traditional day centres which were established around 30 years ago and, in terms of service design, have not changed substantially since.
- Recent services developed in the Council had secured a range of alternatives for some people with learning disabilities such as supported employment, but had not focused attention on existing services.
- The national strategy for people with learning disabilities "The Same As You" and the strategy for Lanarkshire "We Want A Life" both advocate modernising day services and increasing choice for service users and their families.
- People with learning disabilities, during consultation on the above strategies and in quality reviews, expressed dissatisfaction with aspects of the services they received.
- Younger families have significantly increased expectations of the services their sons and daughters should receive on leaving school.
- Day centres are not designed in ways that can readily support people with high levels of needs.

3. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 3.1. The group has met monthly since February 2002 and has a programme of meetings scheduled to the end of the year. The remit of the group is:

- To examine and make recommendations on the range of day opportunities available for people with learning disabilities in North Lanarkshire.
- To be informed by best practice and make recommendations to ensure services are designed to meet individual need.
- To be informed by the views, experiences and aspirations of service users and carers in determining future approaches to service delivery.

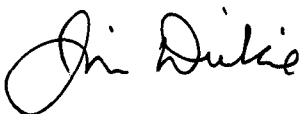
- To pay specific attention to the needs of people at times of major life transition, such as, young people leaving school and older people with increasing frailty and health problems and make recommendations on service planning and delivery.
 - To make recommendations for improvements in the efficiency and effectiveness of day services provided or funded by North Lanarkshire Council and other relevant agencies.
- 3.2. The group has membership from elected members; officers; service users; carers; representatives from the Health service and further education. One of the most positive features to date has been the effective participation of service users and carers in the process.
- 3.3. The group has received a number of presentations to date from service users and staff on patterns of current service delivery; best practice; supported employment; transition planning and opportunities in further education. In addition representatives attended a conference in London on modernising day services to inform the review process.
- 3.4. Extensive consultation is scheduled with key stakeholders. Lanarkshire Community Care Forum and North Lanarkshire Advocacy Project have been remitted to undertake this task with carers and service users respectively. A questionnaire has been designed for staff who work in day centres.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. It is intended to present a report Social Work Committee by the end of the year. This will contain an analysis of financial, personnel and other implications.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
26 June 2002

For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Manager, Community Care Partnerships (TEL: 01698 332072)