

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: UPDATE – SCOTTISH COMMISSION FOR THE REGULATION OF CARE (CARE COMMISSION)
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 24 October 2002	Ref: DOD/EOC	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To advise Committee members of the impact the Care Commission has had upon North Lanarkshire services in its first 6 months of operation.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. On 1 April 2002 the Care Commission took over from local authorities and health boards as the regulatory body responsible for residential and nursing homes and day services. Local authority services themselves were subject to regulation from that date.

3. REGULATORY IMPACT ON SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

- 3.1. Preparatory arrangements have been undertaken at a range of different levels throughout the Department. Seminars for managers at all levels have taken place in each of the three social work divisions. An action plan which identified property/training/procedural/staffing issues requiring attention is being progressed.
- 3.2. An inspection programme has commenced and included 4 inspections of local authority residential services: Torrance Avenue Childrens Unit, Airdrie; Pine Court Childrens Unit, Cumbernauld; Craig Street Hostel, Airdrie and Herbison House Residential Home, Shotts. Reports on these services have still to be finalised.
- 3.3. Local liaison arrangements have been established through the Department's Monitoring & Standards Manager but the Care Commission has still to consolidate its registration and inspection arrangements.
- 3.4. The work programme of the Care Commission nationally appears to have been impeded by data transfer problems, consolidation of staffing and legal impediments in implementing the core legislation.
- 3.5. Joint work between the Social Work Department and the Commission is currently ongoing in relation to devising protocols for:
 - sharing information about independent sector services
 - complaints handling/information
 - dealing with registration applications and variations
 - publishing inspection reports

4. CONCLUSION

4.1. It was envisaged that the work of the Care Commission in applying national care standards and regulations would have an early impact upon day and residential services in both the local authority and independent sector throughout North Lanarkshire. To date the impact has been less significant than anticipated, largely due to teething problems being experienced by the Care Commission. Notwithstanding that position, preparatory work towards compliance with standards is continuing to be given priority throughout the Department, joint protocols are being devised between the two bodies and an inspection programme is being implemented.

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 September 2002

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