

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HOMESHARE ADULT FAMILY PLACEMENTS SCHEME
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 19 DECEMBER 2002	Ref: MD/	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of progress made in implementing an agreed developmental priority for people with learning disabilities, namely the development of family placements.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. At the start of North Lanarkshire Council the only accommodation option for adults with a learning disability who did not wish to, or were unable to, live in the family home, was residential care. Sometimes this was located hundreds of miles from their home area. Whilst a number of people benefited from this form of care it required to people to live in groups with people they did not necessarily know or enjoy living with and restricted their disposable income to what is now £16.80 per week because of registration requirements. It also usually meant that there was no separation of housing and support provider (so making people being vulnerable to losing their home if the support arrangements didn't work out).
- 2.2. The Council determined to create a range of alternative accommodation with support arrangements that enabled people with learning disabilities to choose where they lived, with whom they lived, and benefit from a minimum disposable income of £100 per week, all underpinned by a clear separation of the housing and support provider.
- 2.3. A number of alternatives are now established:
- Supported Living – individualised fully supported tenancies, now enjoyed by over 120 people with learning disabilities
 - Neighbourhood Networks – a low support network of tenancies generally for people with mild or moderate needs, which has started in Bellshill and is being expanded across the authority
 - Home Ownership – whereby Social Work plan with an organisation called Ownership options to help make home ownership a reality, now the case for 4 people with learning disabilities
 - Adult family placements, which is the subject of this report.
- 2.4. Adult family placements offer the opportunity for people with a learning disability to live on a long term basis with a host family. Evidence from established services elsewhere in the country indicates that adult family placements offer high quality care and support, enriched experiences, new friendships and new opportunities. It was envisaged that the opportunity may be of most interest to, though not be exclusive to, people who have lived in hospital or residential care.

- 2.3. It was agreed at Committee in January 2001 that Cornerstone Community Care, on behalf of a partnership of supported living providers would develop and introduce this service.
- 2.4. Committee noted in April 2002, the appointment of the co-ordinator through Cornerstone Community Care and adoption of the name "Homeshare" for the service.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

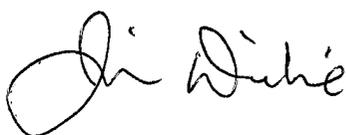
- 3.1. All policies and procedures relating to Homeshare have been developed in full consultation with the provider organisations, officers of the Social Work Department, and with reference to other adult family placement schemes operating throughout Scotland.
- 3.2. As part of the assessment procedure for Homeshare, prospective carers are subject to a thorough assessment, which is undertaken by the project co-ordinator. Once concluded the assessment is presented to an assessment panel for consideration.
- 3.3 The panel consists of representatives from Health, Social Work, provider organisations, carers experienced in adult family placements and service user. All panel members have undertaken induction training to assist them in their role.
- 3.4 The Homeshare co-ordinator will act upon the recommendations of the panel. Where families are approved, the co-ordinator will maintain regular contact with the family and the person placed with them to ensure the ongoing success of the placement.
- 3.5 The Social Work Department will maintain, at all times, care management responsibility for the person to be supported through adult family placements.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Officers of the department are currently engaged in concluding the contractual agreements with Cornerstone Community Care in relation to Homeshare.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. Committee is requested to:
 - (i) note the progress made in developing "Homeshare";
 - (ii) future reports will be given to Committee on a 6 monthly basis; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
19 November 2002

For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Planning & Development Manager TEL: (01698 332067)