

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN SOCIAL WORK
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 27 FEBRUARY 2003	Ref: DM	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of progress made in North Lanarkshire over the last 4 years towards implementation of major priorities within Social Work.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Recent years have seen unprecedented changes in the scale and pace of change in Social Work. A raft of new legislation and policies has created a complex set of additional requirements on Local Authority Social Work Departments which are required to be delivered to demanding time scales.
- 2.2. New responsibilities have been accompanied, in some instances, by significant additional resources. Together with active and appropriate income generation this has seen the Social Work budget grow almost 50% from 1999/2000 to 2002/03. The Council has progressively taken steps to ensure that an increased proportion of total resources goes on Social Work services. This reflects the high levels of need within North Lanarkshire.
- 2.3. This report considers progress against key objectives for each of the main care groups and themes.

## 3. COMMUNITY CARE

- 3.1. Community care refers to people who need assistance because of the consequences of frailty, illness or disability. It consumes the majority of Social Work spend – around 80% of the total budget. Social Work play a lead role in assessing need and arranging services to meet those needs, in partnership with other Departments and agencies. Demand for services continues to grow as people live longer and increasingly exercise a choice to remain in their own homes.
- 3.2. The most influential policy initiative is A Joint Future, which requires Local Authorities and the NHS to collaborate effectively in order to improve services. Considerable steps have been taken to implement this policy, including:
- The establishment of a joint Health & Care Partnership chaired by the Convener of Social Work
  - The creation of 5 Local Care Partnerships to deliver joint planning and delivery of services in localities
  - The introduction of single shared assessment between agencies starting with older people
  - A joint organisational development and training plan between agencies.

3.3. Service improvements for older people and people with dementia include:

- An increase in home care spending from £7.7m (99/00) to over £16m (02/03)
- Funding an additional 250 nursing home placements
- The implementation of a joint delayed discharge action plan with the NHS
- The establishment of intensive home care services in all localities as an alternative to institutional care
- The creation of rapid response and early supported discharge teams to prevent hospital admission and help people leave hospital quickly with the right support
- The opening of Merrystone Care Base
- The opening of East Stewart Gardens, Coatbridge, a day service for people with dementia
- The re-opening of the Sir John Mann Centre in Wishaw as a day care service.

3.4. Service improvements for people with learning disabilities include:

- Over 120 people have moved into their own fully supported tenancies
- Commissioning of a new respite care unit, opened to hotel standards in December 2002
- Enabling 55 people to secure real work for real wages through the supported employment scheme
- The discharge of everyone from North Lanarkshire out of Birkwood, Lennox Castle and Royal Scottish National Hospitals into community settings
- The completion of a member/officer review of day opportunities.

3.5. Service improvements for people with mental health problems include:

- In partnership with Health, the establishment of Resource Networks in all localities
- Increasing specialist staffing in each of the 5 Outreach Teams
- Funding Lanarkshire Links to ensure effective user and carer participation
- Implementing a range of new duties under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.

3.6. Service improvements for people with physical disabilities, sensory impairment and acquired brain injury include:

- Opening of a new Joint Equipment Service, based in Motherwell, consisting of a store, assessment and information service and mobile unit
- Reducing waiting times for assessment by around 75%
- Commissioned DeafBlind Scotland to undertake needs assessment work in North Lanarkshire
- Introducing a Direct Payments scheme for people who wish to purchase their own care or employ their own staff.

3.7. Service improvements for carers include:

- Developing a Carers Strategy for North Lanarkshire in partnership with carers' organisations
- Agreeing, with carers, the use of an additional £627,000 for direct services to carers
- Creating Carer Support Workers in all localities, in partnership with the Princess Royal Trust for Carers
- Supporting the establishment of North Lanarkshire Carers Together
- Expanding respite care provision for various care groups.

3.8. Other service improvements for community care groups include:

- Establishing a joint Transition Planning project to support young people with disabilities to make the transition from education to adult life
- Allocating an additional £436,000 on frontline rehabilitation services for people with addictions including the employment of a Family Support Development Worker, 6 Rehabilitation Workers and 4 Housing Support Workers.

#### **4. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

4.1. Services to children and families are mainly delivered under the framework of the Children's (Scotland) Act 1995 to children in need; children who are looked after and accommodated; and children who have or are affected by disability.

4.2. Service improvements in the last 4 years include:

- Developing Shared Care (family based respite care for children with a disability) including a contract scheme for those with complex needs and a befriending service
- In partnership with NCH Young Carers Project, expanding services for young carers affected by alcohol/drug abuse
- Expanding the Ruses Project (addiction services to young people) to offer increased authority wide services
- Establishing Community Alternatives at Kirknowe to provide intensive services to sustain children in their families and communities whenever possible
- Establishing the Sure Start Resources Project within the Social Work Department to provide home based support for young children and their families
- Appointing a Child Protection Co-ordinator to improve inter agency practice in relation to child protection
- Commissioning services for looked after and accommodated children to assist rehabilitation
- Reconfiguring and expanding ThroughCare services for young people previously looked after and accommodated to meet new regulations
- Providing increased resources to improve educational attainment for looked after and accommodated children.

#### **5. CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

5.1. Criminal justice services are delivered in accordance with National Standards and Objectives. Service improvements in the last 4 years include:

- Introducing 6 Youth Justice Teams to address youth crime
- Establishing a joint protocol with Strathclyde Police 'N' Division for the management of sex and high risk offenders
- Creating a joint partnership grouping with South Lanarkshire Council
- Commissioning services for persistent young offenders from INCLUDEM
- Creating diversion from prosecution through SACRO's Mediation & Reparation Scheme
- Jointly funding a bail service from Hamilton Sheriff Court
- A range of joint training and development initiatives to improve performance
- Planning Throughcare services to address the needs of those at highest risk of re-offending

## 6. OTHER INITIATIVES

6.1. Other significant progress that crosses care groups includes:

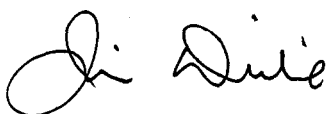
- The supporting people initiative which has generated over £15m in transitional housing benefit
- Achieving the Chartermark Award for Excellence for Mitchell Street Childrens' Home; the Supported Employment scheme; Community Alarms; and East Stewart Gardens day care service
- Achieving COSLA Quality Awards for the Rushes Project; Supported Employment, Merrystone Care Base and SWIS (Social Work Information System) 2001
- Increasing choice by commissioning a wide range of independent sector services
- Initiating a major recruitment and retention of staff drive, including the creation of senior practitioners, social work trainee posts
- Opening a new training centre to enhance staff learning and performance
- Developing an information system capable of delivering single shared assessment with partner agencies.

## 7. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are no further implications at this stage.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1. Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**4 February 2003**

*For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Manager, Planning & Development, (TEL: 01698 332072)*