

AGENDA ITEM No. 16

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: MEMBER / OFFICER REVIEW OF DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES: PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 28 AUGUST 2003	Ref: CJ /	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To advise Committee of progress to date in implementing the recommendations of the Member / Officer Review of Day Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities with specific reference to Day Centres and Lifelong Learning.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Report and recommendations of the Member / Officer Review for People with Learning Disabilities was approved by Social Work Committee on 27th February 2003.
- 2.2 The Report highlighted six areas in which action plans would be progressed to ensure a range of modernised services for adults with learning disabilities. These are as follows:
- Supported Employment
 - Accommodation with support
 - Transition planning for young people with disabilities
 - Health Care
 - Day Centres (both local authority and independent sector)
 - Lifelong Learning
- 2.3 The implementation arrangements in respect of Day Centres and Lifelong Learning, were remitted to an authority wide Day Opportunities Implementation Group to provide strategic direction to the modernisation programme for learning disability services. Five Locality Implementation Groups were to be established in each of the Local Health Care Co-operatives, with a Local Authority Locality Manager having responsibility for implementation at the local level.
- 2.4 Initial progress was provided in a report submitted to Social Work Committee on 5th June 2003. This report seeks to provide a further update on the implementation arrangements.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

Progress

3.1 Since the report to Social Work Committee on 5th June, the following progress has been made.

3.1.1 The Learning Disability Day Opportunities Implementation Group has been established and has met twice to date. This group comprises of representatives from Service Users, Carers, Social Work, Personnel, Trade Unions, Community Services, Health and Further Education.

3.1.2 The group will ensure that:

- There is one direction for all learning disability day opportunity services across North Lanarkshire
- The service description will reflect the 10 key essential characteristics of the vision for the service as detailed in the Member / Officer Report

3.2 A range of work has commenced involving a wider group of people and resources as follows:

- Joint work is underway with Community Resources staff to develop appropriate, accessible community facilities for people with additional support needs and promote social inclusion.
- Local audits have commenced of resources currently used by people with learning disabilities. These audits, which highlight issues of building access and availability of resources, will ensure appropriate participation is available in all local communities.
- The first of several scheduled Locality Planning Events for health and social work staff has taken place with a view to promoting partnership work and the development of the shared agenda/vision for localities
- Initial discussions have commenced with Social Work personnel staff on the human resource requirements for a modernised service
- Preparation with Locality Managers (Learning Disability) for the establishment of five Locality Implementation Groups is underway with recognition being given to any additional training requirements for this group of staff
- Initial profiling of service user numbers and required supports has commenced. This will enable service development to be influenced by the needs and requirements of users of the services and supports planned for a modernised service.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. There are no financial or personnel implications to report at this time. As noted at point 3.3. discussions have commenced with personnel staff to develop options on staffing requirements appropriate to the delivery of modernised services.

4.2. It is anticipated that a future report to Committee will provide details of proposed reconfigured staffing arrangements.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of this report



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
23 July 2003

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager, Community Care, Adult Services TEL: (01698 332177) or Connie Johnstone, Co-ordinator Learning Disability, Adult Services TEL: (01698 332228)