

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGIC PLAN
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 30 OCTOBER 2003	Ref: JD/GMcI/DH	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To seek Committee approval for the Supporting People Strategic Plan report and agree its submission to the Scottish Executive.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. All local authorities are required to prepare Supporting People Plans for the period 2003 to 2008. These strategic plans are to be integrated with Local Housing Strategies from April 2004 and will be subject to assessment by the Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland.
- 2.2. Having a strategic plan in place is a condition of receiving Supporting People Grant, but for the initial grant offers for 2003/04, the Executive agreed that those authorities who had submitted a draft plan it would be deemed to meet this requirement, subject to receiving an updated plan by October 2003. North Lanarkshire Council has previously submitted a draft Plan. The revised report which is available in the Members' library, has been updated inline with the requirements of the Executive.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. The revised Supporting People Plan has been prepared by officers from Social Work and Housing & Property Services Departments. It sets out the Council's vision, its main aims and objectives as well as outlining the need for housing support services to be delivered to a range of service users.
- 3.2. A major feature of the plan is to ensure that good quality flexible and affordable housing support services are available to those who need them. This will enable individuals to live independently as possible, in the community or homely setting. This will be achieved by:
- ❖ putting service users at the forefront of service planning and delivery of services
 - ❖ tailoring services to meet the needs of individuals
 - ❖ improving the quality and scope of local services
 - ❖ promoting social inclusion
 - ❖ opening up housing support to people requiring services in all tenures
 - ❖ ensuring seamless transition from old to new services

- 3.3. The report contains a detailed action plan to assist the Council achieve its Supporting People targets. It sets out the procedures for monitoring and reviewing the progress which is being made and for reporting to the relevant Committees of the Council.
- 3.4. The revised plan has of necessity had to be prepared within a relatively short timescale. This has limited the period for consultation with external partners as well as service users. Nevertheless, the plan was circulated to all interested parties with a four week period for consultation and comment and account has been taken of all submissions which have been received.
- 3.5. The plan should be viewed as a working document which is subject to annual review which allows a flexible approach to developing trends and issues.

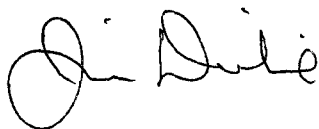
4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. As part of the Supporting People compliance agenda, the Council has to submit a revised Strategic Plan to safeguard the allocation of the Supporting People Grant which is estimated at £23.5 million.
- 4.2. The Action Plan which is contained within the Strategy sets out a range of tasks and service developments. The resources required for this purpose will be met within the existing Supporting People Grant.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is requested to:

- i) Approve the revised Supporting People Strategic Plan report; and
- ii) Agree to the report being submitted to the Scottish Executive; and
- iii) To request an annual report detailing any changes to the Supporting People Plan



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
8 September 2003



Thomas McKenzie
Director of Housing and Property Services
8 September 2003

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