

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: BRAIN INJURY NEEDS IDENTIFICATION WORK BY DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION EDUCATION (DARE): PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 15 JANUARY 2004	Ref: ST	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

1.1. To advise Committee of progress in reviewing acquired brain injury services, which has taken place within the context of the Best Value Review of Independent Living Services.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Damage to the brain can occur through a variety of different injuries such as a blow to the head, lack of blood to the brain or through infection. The difficulties people experience following an acquired brain injury are often wide ranging and complex, including:

- physical disability eg difficulty co-ordinating movement
- cognitive impairment eg difficulty with concentration and memory
- psycho-social problems eg mental health problems and problems with social interactions

2.2. As a result of these difficulties, people are often unable to return to their lifestyle prior to their brain injury without a significant period of rehabilitation which may initially be hospital based followed by service provision within their local communities.

2.3. Services for people with acquired brain injury are currently delivered either via reception services and area team staff or referred to the Brain Injury Project which currently offers a specialist rehabilitation input.

2.4. Approval was granted at Social Work (Operations and Services) Sub Committee on 25 April 2002 for DARE, an independent organisation, to conduct a review of brain injury services. Funding of £36,510 was approved for this purpose.

2.5. DARE was identified as the most appropriate organisation to carry out this review as it aims to develop sustainable partnerships between service users and providers in shaping and evaluating services. It was founded in 1994, and their philosophy fits well with the Department's commitment to service user participation in reviewing and planning services and in developing person centred services.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. Approach

A number of methods were used to identify people to participate, which included:

- Contact via the area teams and the Brain Injury Project
- Contact with adult day services
- Contact with health colleagues.
- Contact via both local Headway groups and Headway National

3.2 DARE work in a specific way through a series of workshops with participants who are split 50/50 service users and carers (family members and professionals). Three workshops were planned between August 2003 and January 2004.

3.3 At the first workshop a number of project groups which established which focused on gaps in current service provision. Participants themselves decide on the themes of each group, and DARE provide a facilitator to assist the groups develop their projects which will be presented at the final workshop.

3.4 Progress

A total of 53 people were invited to the first workshop in August 2003, and four project groups were identified, each looking at a specific area of service provision:

- Developing a support group
- Developing a community focal point for support, information, meetings, links with local communities etc
- Production of a comprehensive information pack
- Provision of information and awareness training.

3.5 Participants identified a number of areas of good practice and a range of issues to be addressed which included:

3.6 Areas of Good Practice

- Initial primary care service
- Some specific services eg. Follow-up clinic at Monklands Hospital
- Commitment of service providers
- Information when accessible is helpful

3.7 Issues

- Lack of awareness by professionals of brain injury and it's effects
- Difficulty in obtaining information at the right time
- Lack of appropriate resources eg. help to get back to employment, combating social isolation, poor communication systems between and within agencies
- Difficulty of balancing needs of service users and those of their carers

3.8 Next Steps

An additional workshop has been planned for December 2003 to allow for further discussion of some of the issues raised, particularly how to balance the differing needs of service users and carers.

The final workshop in January 2004 is currently being planned where each of the four project groups will present their work to key stakeholders and funding agencies.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

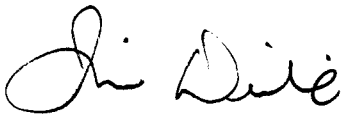
4.1. The approach adopted by DARE is consistent with the policy of the Department in respect of the participation of services users and carers in the development, implementation and delivery of services. The work has been part of the Best Value Review of Independent Living Services.

4.2. As outlined at section 2.4, the costs of this review had been approved at Committee in April 2002. Any recommendations arising from the review will be reported to Committee, along with cost implications.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is asked to :

- (i) note the contents of this report.
- (ii) request the Director of Social Work to provide a further report to Committee outlining the findings and recommendations arising from the review, along with cost implications.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
20 November 2003

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager, Community Care (Adults) TEL: (01698 332177) or Susan Kelso McDonald, Co-ordinator (Independent Living Services) TEL: (01698 332633)