

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: PETITION FROM THE COMMUNITY GROUPS USING THE ALEXANDER RESOURCE CENTRE	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 15 JANUARY 2004	Ref: MB/KL	

## 1. CONTENT AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To bring to the attention of the Social Work Committee a petition from users of the community groups regarding their concerns about the closure of the Alexander Resource Centre.
- 1.2 Approximately 1586 people have signed their names and given their addresses in support of this statement. A copy is available in the Department of Administration or the Department of Social Work.

## 2. BACKGROUND

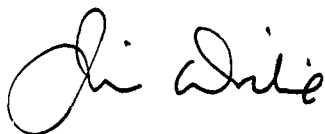
- 2.1 The Alexander Resource Centre operates out of a Health Service building and North Lanarkshire Council has a lease arrangement in place until March 2004 but there is no prospect of a requirement to vacate the premises at that point.
- 2.2 The Council is continuing discussion on the lease arrangements with Health. Consequently, local speculation has arisen about the future arrangements for this building from service users, carers and voluntary organisations.
- 2.3 The Alexander Resource Centre was opened in October 1984 and currently provides a range of services and facilities:
  - 2.3.1 A five day, older people day care provision
  - A five day, physical disability day care provision
  - Office accommodation for Restorative Justice Services
  - Accommodation for 40 community and voluntary organisations
- 2.4 The lease is due to expire in March 2004. The NHS Lanarkshire Board recognise that services will need to be sustained and consequently understand the issues involved.
- 2.5 Care Commission inspection reports have identified significant issues in the fabric of the building. Considerable costs also exist in relation to the heating system deployed and in the general maintenance of the building. Any re-investment would not be cost effective as the building is no longer fit for purpose.
- 2.6 Any future provision needs to be developed in consideration of the Joint Future agenda, which includes the need to modernise and re-align provision particularly in relation to elderly day care.
- 2.7 The Local Care Partnerships (LCP's) are reviewing these options with a view to the appropriate re-alignment of services.

### 3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Department will continue to seek arrangements that ensure that relocation occurs at a time and in a way that suits service user and carer requirements.
- 3.2 The Director of Social Work will write to service users, carers and voluntary organisation to advise and clarify the position.
- 3.3 Proposals in relation to the provision of services at the Alexander Resource Centre will be brought forward to the Committee in due course.

### 4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Members are invited to note the contents of the report and the petition.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**2 December 2003**

*For further information on this report please contact Mike Burns Operations Manager Tel: (01236 622166)*