

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH STAKEHOLDER EVENT AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 15 JANUARY 2003	Ref: RM/JD	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report advises Committee of a Mental Health Stakeholder Event held on 28 November 2003 and seeks approval for proposals to enhance services for people with mental health problems.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In June 2002, a "Mental Health Stakeholders" Event, was attended by service users, carers and staff from Social Work, Health and voluntary organisations in North Lanarkshire. This event considered information about the prevalence of mental health difficulties and issues about services, the outcome of which was subsequently reported to Committee in September 2002.

2.2 The Committee Report also advised on a number of priorities for action by partners. It advised that a "Stakeholder Recall Event" would be held later in 2003, to report on progress made to those who had attended the previous event.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Stakeholder Recall event was held on 28 November 2003, in the GLO Centre Motherwell. It was attended by 72 participants and chaired by Councillor Peter Sullivan, Vice-Convenor of Social Work. A full report on the event will be produced and circulated to those who attended in January. The content of the event included:

- A report and presentation on progress and proposals developed since last year's event
- Presentation of a survey carried out by service users on the "Resource Network" model (the approach being developed across North Lanarkshire, to provide community based mental health services)
- Workshops on information; joining up primary care and specialist mental health services; the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003; joining up Social Work and Health services
- "Choose Life" - the Scottish Executive's Suicide Prevention Strategy
- Advocacy for people with mental health difficulties.

3.2 It is proposed to enhance services for people with mental health problems in ways that are set out below.

3.3 **Advocacy** - At present the Equals Advocacy Project provides professional and citizen advocacy in North Lanarkshire, funded jointly by Social Work and NHS Lanarkshire. The new Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act places additional responsibilities on statutory agencies to fund advocacy. It is therefore proposed to increase funding of the project by £30,000 per annum. NHS Lanarkshire will match fund between Equals and the Hartwoodhill Patients Council.

3.4 **Day Opportunities** - A report to Committee in August 2003 approved the allocation of £40,000 to support a service development proposed by a group of service users in North Lanarkshire. The Club Net scheme is a variation on the Clubhouse model and is designed to provide day opportunities, mutual support and access to employment. The service users concerned were invited to identify a host organisation to administer the funds on their behalf and were supported in this work by officers of the Council. Approval is therefore sought to place funds with the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH), which was selected by users for this purpose. Committee is asked to note that NHS Lanarkshire have now indicated that they will make a funding contribution to the service.

3.5 **Homelessness** - The Connections Project is based in Coatbridge and works with people with mental health problems who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The project is jointly funded, by Social Work and NHS Lanarkshire and there are close links with the Housing Department. Proposals to enhance the scheme so that it covers all the authority area are being developed and will be reported to a future Committee.

3.6 **Information** – Lack of a coherent, information and advice service has been a consistent source of dissatisfaction among stakeholders. Proposals are being prepared with NHS Lanarkshire for a voluntary sector provider to provide a range of information, advice and/or “sign posting” as well as referral to specialist services. This will be the subject of a report to a future Committee.

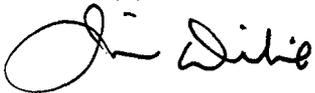
4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Funding for the service developments described will be met from monies allocated by the Scottish Executive to implement new mental health legislation.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) Approve the service developments set out in Section 3 of the report; and
- (ii) Otherwise note the contents of the report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
4 December 2003

For further information on this report please contact Bobby Miller, Development Manager, Social Work Department
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