

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: MEMBER/OFFICER REVIEW OF DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES : PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 11 MARCH 2004	Ref: CJ/	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To advise Committee of progress 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 of the Member / Officer Review of Day Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities was approved by Social Work Committee on 27th February 2003. This set out a clear vision for day opportunities, which centred on providing support and/or care to people with learning disabilities within local communities in a way which recognises the unique needs, qualities and wishes of each individual.
- 2.2. 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 day services.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. The Learning Disability Day Opportunities Implementation Group continues to meet on a regular six weekly basis. The group comprises of representatives from Service Users, Carers, Social Work, Personnel, Trade Unions, Community Services, Health and Further Education.
- 3.2. At an early stage, the group sought agreement on a preferred model for implementing day opportunities in the future. This resulted in a clear preference being expressed for locality working arrangements. Essentially, this means that day opportunities should be made available to people with learning disabilities in their preferred local area, and this would usually be their home area. This means that people should be supported, irrespective of whether they access a day centre, and this support should be tailored to the needs, wishes and preferences of individuals. Emphasis has been placed on the importance of social inclusion whereby people with learning disabilities are supported to access mainstream services and opportunities.

- 3.3. Significant progress has been made in developing the options for revised staffing arrangements, which would ensure that the locality model can be implemented. Draft job descriptions have been developed, and staff have been actively involved in informing the development of these. In addition, the options for revised conditions of service have been completed, and these are to be the subject of discussions with staff over the next few weeks. Consultation has been started with the Trade Union Representatives about all aspects of the proposed changes.
- 3.4. The revised staffing options have been costed and indicate that change is achievable within the current resources available within the Department.
- 3.5. The locality based model for service requires community resources to be accessible and work continues with staff from the Community Services Department to achieve this. Current work is focussed on the Moodiesburn and Shotts areas, however discussions are taking place to consider priorities in other areas.
- 3.6. The development of Local Implementation Groups is being progressed across the Authority. The Locality Groups have agreed their structure and remits and meetings have commenced. These groups will ensure the involvement of all stakeholders at a local level in the proposed changes.
- 3.7. The training and support needs for all staff groups are currently being identified, including for managers the management of change.
- 3.8. The summary document outlining, in a user friendly format, the work of the Officer / Member Review and the vision for a modernised service has been widely distributed to people using services and their carers. The response to the document has been very positive.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. It is anticipated that a future report to Committee will provide details of the proposed reconfigured staffing arrangements and costs, following conclusion of the detailed work and consultation currently taking place.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1. Committee is asked to:
 - (i) note the contents of this report



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
5th February 2004

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)