

AGENDA ITEM No. 13

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| To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE     | Subject: CREATION OF INDEPENDENT SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SELF DIRECTED SERVICES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE |  |
| From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK |   |  |
| Date: 28 AUGUST 2004          | Ref: MD / DW  |  |

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise Committee on the progress made in establishing an independent North Lanarkshire Support Service. This is required to provide information, support and practical assistance in the establishment and management of direct payments, within the wider context of promoting Self Directed Services.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Progress on Self Directed Services has been reported to Social Work Committee on various occasions, notably in December 2002, February 2003 and February 2004.
- 2.2. The term Self Directed Services is used to describe all arrangements for individualised services. It encapsulates a philosophy that promotes the full inclusion and participation of each person in their communities. Significant headway has been made in promoting Self Directed Services and self determination through quality person centred planning and fully involving people in the assessment, planning and decision making process. It includes meeting the Council's legislative requirement to make a Direct Payment to a person assessed as needing services, where they do not wish those services to be provided or purchased by the Council.
- 2.3. Initial funding was used to appoint a temporary Senior Development Officer from June 2003 to June 2004 with the specific remit of facilitating the development of a North Lanarkshire service.

## 3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. During the last year the following key tasks were undertaken by the temporary Senior Development Officer:
- June 2003: 3 public consultation events held and a Steering Group established
  - August 2003- February 2004: Steering Group met to consider the requirements of a potential service and ways in which to form the service
  - February 2004: it was agreed that a new user led organisation would be created, building on the enthusiasm locally for such a service
  - February - June 2004: a user led group met to agree a service specification and constitution for the group.

- 3.2. The North Lanarkshire Self Directed Services Support Organisation was formed on 15 June 2004 when the constitution was formally adopted and office bearers appointed.
- 3.3. The service will offer an inclusive philosophy, be independent, user-led and accessible to all who require it. It will provide information, support and advice about all matters pertaining to Self Directed Services and will signpost individuals and network with other organisations. They will offer an individualised service before, during and after the process of securing a Direct Payment. On a practical level they will be able to offer training and practical assistance such as payroll service, assistance with recruitment of personal assistants etc.
- 3.4. To introduce the service in North Lanarkshire and to reflect the current scale of interest in Direct Payments it is proposed that the service starts with two members of staff who will be based in Unit 33 Fern Street, Motherwell. There will no additional property costs as these premises are already being leased by Social Work.
- 3.5. A Development Manager and Administrative Assistant will provide initial services as well as work to secure additional funds which may become available from external sources. It is further anticipated that the organisation will generate a limited income through payroll and training opportunities offered to recipients of direct payment arrangements.
- 3.6. The cost of the service is £73,732 per annum.

#### **4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. The existing budget available is £31,317. The remainder- £42,415- will be met from existing community care resources. There are no direct personnel implications for the Council.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the creation of North Lanarkshire Self Directed Services Support Organisation; and
- (ii) Approve the allocation of £73,732 on a recurring basis to the group; and
- (iii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**26 July 2004**

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