

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: MEMBER/OFFICER REVIEW OF DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES : PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 26 AUGUST 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 that centred on providing support and/or care to people with learning disabilities within local communities.
- 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
- 2.3. The Day Opportunities Implementation Group continues to meet regularly with representatives from key stakeholders and partners, and receives reports on progress and provides a strategic overview of proposed work.
- 2.4. Progress reports have been provided for each Social Work Committee since February 2003 and this report seeks to provide a further update on the progress of implementation arrangements.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Progress continues in each of the following areas :

- Joint work with North Lanarkshire Community Services Department to create accessible community facilities has continued. The planning has now moved into the second phase with work for the current financial year including proposals to upgrade toilet facilities in Motherwell and Wishaw libraries and upgrade access within Summerlee Heritage Centre. A planned upgrade and renovations of Tryst Sports Complex in Cumbernauld will also reflect the partnership approach between Social Work and Community Services.

- Work to upgrade and modernise two existing Day Centres in the financial year 2003/04 was successfully completed. Buchanan Street Centre now has a suite of two adult personal care and change facilities with an adapted shower area. This facility can now be used by anybody in the Coatbridge locality requiring personal care and change facilities and will contribute towards this developing as a community resource.
- Hallcraig Centre, Airdrie had the first phase of work completed in the financial year 2003/04. In the financial year 2004/05, work is continuing to upgrade the building's interior and exterior to enable it to be developed as a community base for multiple use/occupancy. This will increase the value to the community locally, and decrease isolation and segregation for people with learning disabilities.
- 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.
- The auditing of community resources continues to be carried out on a locality basis. This will help staff to consider the range of opportunities available to people with learning disabilities at a local level.

3.2 The issue of appropriate lifelong learning opportunities for people with learning disabilities is key to ensuring quality experiences. To ensure appropriate opportunities are, and will continue to be available, the Day Opportunities Implementation Group is engaging with key personnel from the three Further Education Colleges within North Lanarkshire (Coatbridge, Cumbernauld and Motherwell).

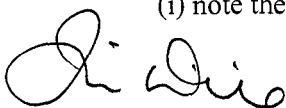
4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In May 2004, Social Work Committee agreed the revised model of staffing required to provide a flexible workforce in the modernised locality based learning disability service. Policy and Resources (Personnel Sub) Committee subsequently approved these staffing proposals.
- 4.2 Further detailed work is being undertaken prior to the implementation date for the redesigned staffing model of October 1st 2004. Matching meetings are being planned to provide all staff an opportunity to discuss their individual circumstances. At the conclusion of this personnel process, staff will be issued with variations to their contracts of employment outlining their new conditions of service.
- 4.3 The work to be undertaken within Motherwell and Wishaw libraries and Summerlee Heritage Centre has £200,000 identified in the Social Work Capital Spend programme (2004/05). Detailed design and costings have been requested prior to the commencement of work. Similarly, the work being undertaken within existing Day Centre buildings has capital spend monies identified (2004/05).

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of this report



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
16 August 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)