



NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: A HOME FOR THE FUTURE: NEXT STEPS
From: JIM DICKIE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 15 SEPTEMBER 2004	Ref: JN/AB	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks Committee approval to implement further changes to the Council's residential care home provision for older people, in line with the Member / Officer group report "A Home for the Future".

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Over the past few years, Committee has received a number of reports on services to older people under the umbrella of "A Home for the Future", the Member / Officer report on the subject. Most recently, Committee approved a report in May 2004 in respect of the Council's ten residential care homes for older people. That report outlined a number of issues that make it necessary for the Council to evaluate its current provision. The factors that influence this are set out below.

- 2.2.1 **The introduction of National Standards**, including higher space standards and entitlement to single room accommodation. For new and rebuilt homes, rooms must have en-suite bath or shower facilities. Standards are enforceable in 2007. Only four of the Council's ten homes meet, or will meet with relatively modest work, the new Standards.

- 2.2.2 **The national policy of shifting the balance of care away from institutional provision to care at home.** It is now largely possible to support people who would otherwise have required residential care to remain at home with high levels of support, which is the expressed wish of most older people. This is due to:

- Increased investment in home care services resulting in a tripling of the budget to £21m. In 1999 the average hours of support per person received was 4.3 hours per week- today it is 9.4 hours.
- Increased flexibility of home care services. In 1999 less than 10% of people received a service in the evening or at the weekend- today it is 30%.
- Extended day care provision from 5 day a week provision to 6/7 days a week.
- Growth of community alarms from 3,200 service users in 1999 to 10,000 today.
- Increased use of new technology which can detect falls, monitor breathing and movement, identify temperature drops to prevent hypothermia etc.

- Increased support to carers through jointly agreed use of funds allocated for this purpose.

2.2.3 Appendix 1 shows the shift in the balance of care for North Lanarkshire in the space of a single year, compared with Scotland as a whole. This shows that 58% of older people in North Lanarkshire are supported in care homes or long stay hospital care whilst 42% of people receive over 10 hours home care per week. The figures for Scotland are 73% and 27% respectively. North Lanarkshire has achieved an 11% shift in a year, and has the highest proportion of older people living at home with high levels of support of any mainland authority in Scotland. This has been accomplished despite demographic change which has resulted in increased numbers of older people.

2.2.4 **Changes in the care home sector.** If people require to enter a care home today it is much more likely that it is because they have nursing care needs which require admission to a nursing home. For this reason the residential care home sector has declined whilst the nursing care home sector continues to expand.

2.2.5 At any one time there are around 40 vacancies in the residential homes sector and 80 vacancies in the nursing homes sector. Nursing home care continues to grow in line with growing numbers of very frail and very elderly people who have needs that cannot be met in residential care and are more difficult to sustain at home. In summary, improvements in community care are squeezing the residential care sector while nursing home care continues to grow at a pace consistent with demographic trends. Appendix 2 shows a range of information on trends including that, in the past two years, over 100 new care home places have been developed in North Lanarkshire with a further 100 plus places due to open in each of this and next year.

2.2.6 **Development of very sheltered housing.** At the outset of North Lanarkshire there was no very sheltered housing. Today there are three such developments completed and one being built with the intention of having very sheltered housing in each of the main townships. This offers an environment which some frail older people prefer to their existing home but enables them to retain their own self-contained accommodation.

2.3 Committee, in approving the report of May 2004, asked the Director of Social Work to present a further report setting out future plans for the Council's care homes.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 The Council has ten residential care homes for older people with a total capacity of 388 places. This section of the report provides information about the potential of each home to meet National Standards by 2007. It should be stressed that the Standards referred to here relate to buildings and not to quality of care. Care standards continue to be high in the Council's care homes for older people.

3.2 Chilterns and Herbison House are "twins", i.e. they share the same design and layout. They are 40 bedded homes with all bedrooms being single rooms, en-suite. They will meet National Standards in 2007 and it is suggested that they can continue to play an important role in meeting the care needs of older people for the foreseeable future.

- 3.3 Monklands and Muirpark are another set of twins, but with a different design from Chilterns and Herbison House. Monklands and Muirpark are 36 bedded homes, with 24 single rooms, en-suite, and 6 double rooms. It is proposed that the double rooms are converted to single rooms with en-suite facilities. This would enable the homes to meet National Standards simply by reducing capacity to 30 in each home. Additional en-suite facilities would enable both homes to meet the care needs of older people for the foreseeable future.
- 3.4 None of the remaining six homes will meet National Standards by 2007.
- 3.5 Lochview in Coatbridge is a 32 bedded home with 24 single and 4 shared bedrooms, none of which are en-suite. In addition, the fabric of the building is poor and the heating system and windows are in need of replacement. Design Services have estimated that it would cost £98,400 to make the building wind and watertight. The cost of renovation and refurbishment to sustain a further 20 year life-span for the building has been estimated as £857,872. Such work would require a full decant of residents for a minimum of 6 months, the additional cost for which would be £267,072. However, none of this work would bring the home up to future national care standards. The scale of rebuilding work in this respect is such that the Care Commission would, in all probability, apply care standards to that which will apply to new homes. Indeed, advice from Design Services is that the best way of achieving compliance would be to construct a new home. Comparable costs suggest this would cost in excess of £3m and take a minimum of 18 months to enact. These factors indicate that Lochview is unsustainable in the longer term and it is therefore proposed to cease admissions to this home with a view to closure.
- 3.6 Meadowside House in Airdrie has 32 single and 6 double bedrooms, none of which are en-suite. There are similar issues about the design and fabric of the building. Design Services have estimated that the cost of making it wind and watertight would be £187,954. The cost of renovation and refurbishment to sustain a further 20 year life-span for the building has been estimated as £664,750. Such work would require a full decant of residents for a minimum of 6 months, the additional cost for which would be £367,224. As with Lochview, none of this work would bring the home up to future national care standards. Again, the most effective way of achieving this would be a newbuild facility with similar costs to that identified at paragraph 3.5. These factors indicate that Meadowside House is unsustainable in the longer term and it is therefore proposed to cease admissions to this home with a view to closure.
- 3.7 High quality alternatives exist in the Coatbridge area as a result of care home development. In Coatbridge alone over 100 new care home places are due to open this year. These facilities offers a far higher quality specification than Lochview or Meadowside and provide a range of attractive alternatives for existing residents there. This also means that there is a unique opportunity for current residents of both homes to move together to the same location, where that is their preference, so helping to reduce anxiety about the proposed change. There is also scope to explore options for future investment in extra care and housing developments in the vicinity of existing home locations.

4. LEGAL / FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

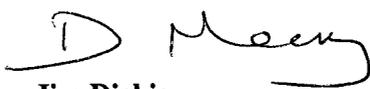
4.1 Due to the planned closure of the two Residential Units for Older People, Lochview and Meadowside House, 47 posts will require to be deleted (see table below). Ongoing discussions will take place with the trade unions and it is anticipated that, through the application of the Council's Redeployment Policy, there will be no compulsory redundancies. However, if early retirements or redundancies arise these will be subject to the approval of the Policy and Resources (Early Retirement) Committee and be the subject of a separate report. Staff and service user profiles be undertaken in order to inform the workforce planning and care management issues to be addressed. Discussion with members of Community Services Department will take place concerning contracted services.

Designation	Grade	No of Posts
Unit Manager	RW32	2 1 – Lochview; 1 - Meadowside House
Depute Unit Manager	RW30	2 1 – Lochview; 1 - Meadowside House
Senior Social Care Worker (Day)	RW23	5 2 – Lochview; 3 - Meadowside House
Senior Social Care Worker (Night)	RW23	6 3 – Lochview; 3 – Meadowside House
Social Care Worker (Day)	RW12/16	22 10 – Lochview; 12 – Meadowside House
Social Care Worker (Night)	RW12/16	8 3 – Lochview; 5 – Meadowside House
Senior Clerical Assistant	GS3	2 1 – Lochview; 1 – Meadowside House

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note that Chilterns and Herbison House will meet National Standards in 2007 and approve their retention as care homes; and
- (ii) Authorise the reduction in capacity from 36 places to 30 places in each of Monklands and Muirpark Homes; and
- (iii) Approve plans to cease admissions to, and subsequently close, Lochview and Meadowside House; and
- (iv) Delete the posts set out at paragraph 4.1 within both Residential Units, Lochview and Meadowside House; and
- (v) Remit the Director of Social Work to bring forward a future report on the outstanding issues identified within this report; and
- (vi) Remit the report to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration; and
- (vii) Otherwise note the contents of this report.

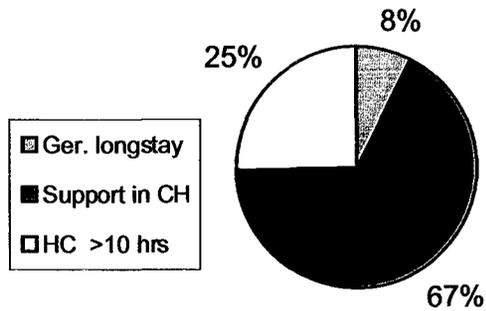
PP 
Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
7th September 2004

For further information on this report please contact Jim Nisbet, Manager, Community Care (Older People)
Tel: 01698 332031

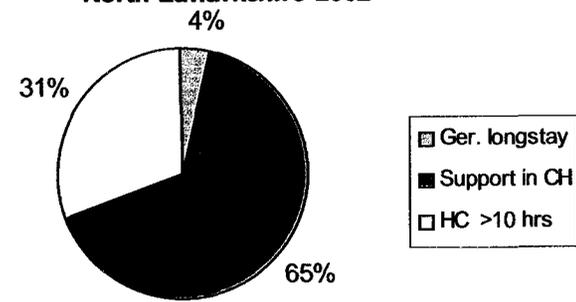
Shifting the Balance of Care for Older People

APPENDIX 1

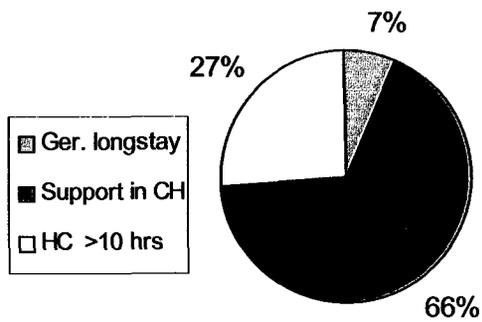
Scotland 2002



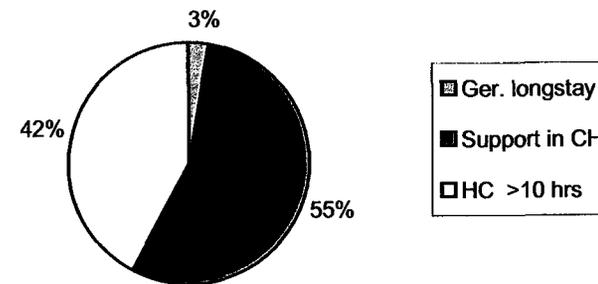
North Lanarkshire 2002



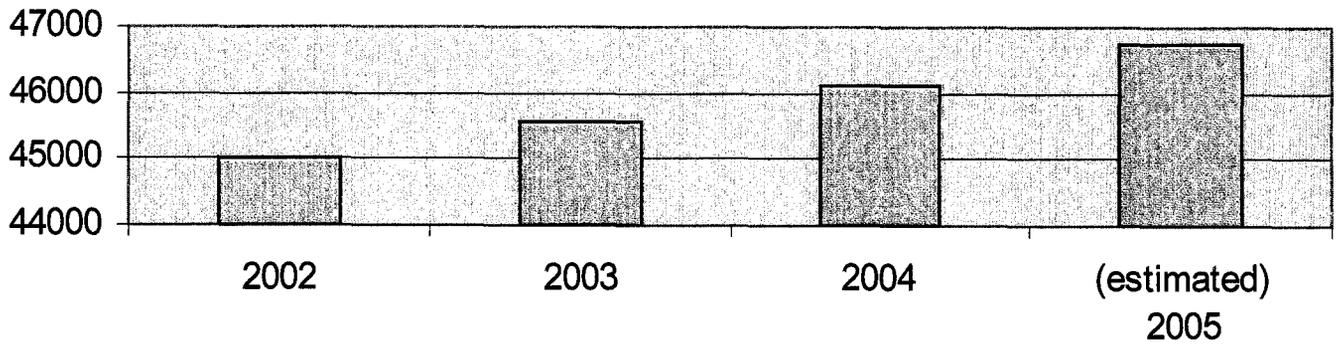
Scotland 2003



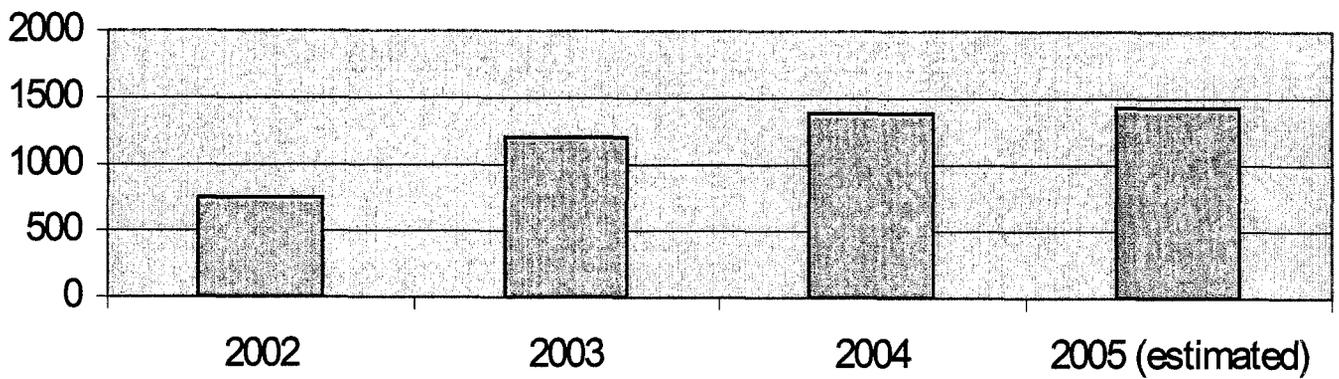
North Lanarkshire 2003



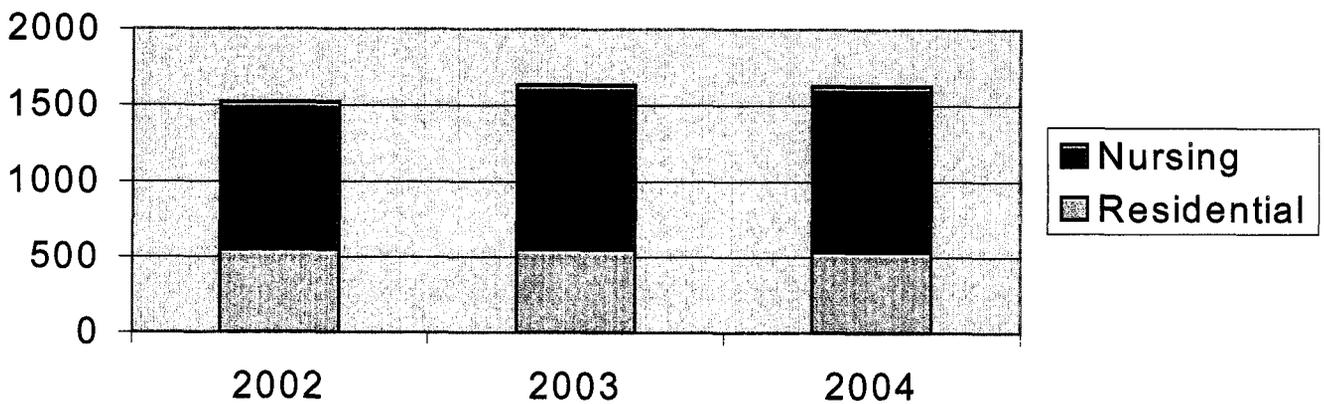
Older People in North Lanarkshire



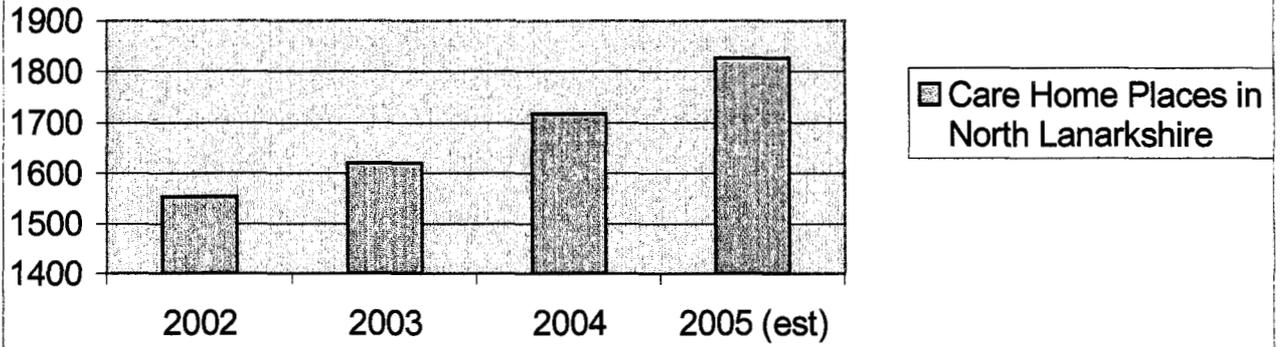
Older People receiving 10 hrs + Home Care



Older People Placed in Care Homes*



Care Home Places in North Lanarkshire



Care Home Vacancies in North Lanarkshire

