

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: THE MODERNISATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES: PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 10 MARCH 2005	Ref: MW/KC	

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

To advise Committee of progress with the modernisation of local authority services for adults with learning disabilities.

2. Background

- 2.1. "The Same As You?" The National Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities was published in June 2000. This envisaged major change in the provision of services across Scotland by recognising that people with learning disabilities should lead ordinary lives and services should be mainstream and not segregated.
- 2.2. The Member / Officer Review of Day Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities was approved by Committee in March 2003. This identified the essential characteristics of modernised services for people with learning disabilities. The report also highlighted the need to review existing local authority residential services at Craig Street, Airdrie and Branchal House, Wishaw. Subsequently, in March 2004 Social Work Committee approved the reconfiguration of services at Craig Street and Branchal House.

3. Proposals / Considerations

- 3.1 In North Lanarkshire, it has been recognised that there are a number of limitations with the model of the provision of residential care for people with learning disabilities:
 - There is little or no choice about where the person lives, who they live with or who supports them.
 - The accommodation is often located long distances from the person's home area.
 - The person has a small personal allowance of around £15 per week.
 - The person has to fit into an existing service that is home to at least several other people.
 - If the care provider decides they cannot meet the person's needs in the establishment, then potentially a person's home as well as their support is lost.
 - The accommodation at Craig Street and Branchal House would not meet future registration requirements set in the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act (2001).
- 3.2 Craig Street, Airdrie and Branchal House, Wishaw are registered to provide residential accommodation for ten and twelve residents respectively. Individual planning, which was completed with residents, highlighted that the majority of people wished to have homes of their own. A small number of people expressed a wish to share their own home with another person and three people expressed an interest in Adult Homeshare placements, where they would live with a family.

- 3.3 Rented housing has been identified for residents through North Lanarkshire Council Housing Department and local Housing Associations. The timescale for property becoming available has been unpredictable because availability is reliant upon the turnover of existing housing stock. In the period from March 2004 to December 2004 four properties became available. However, in December 2004 and January 2005 a further nine properties were secured for individuals.
- 3.4 Support services for people in their own homes will utilise existing supported living service providers from the independent sector. These providers have generally been identified on a geographical basis so that existing community supports are maximised.
- 3.5 The following progress has been made to date:
- Individual planning has been completed for all residents. This was necessary for informing the purchasing of individual support services and identifying the housing need of residents.
 - Two residents have moved out of Craig Street into Adult Homeshare placements and one further resident from Craig Street has moved into a shared tenancy, with the support of a supported living provider.
 - Three residents have moved out of Branchal House into a home of their own, supported by a supported living provider.
 - By the end of June 2005, it is anticipated that a further six residents will have moved into homes of their own. Three of these residents currently live in Craig Street and three live in Branchal House. By the end of September 2005, it is similarly anticipated a further five people, two from Craig Street and three from Branchal House will have accepted housing and have moved.
- 3.6 Substantial progress has been made with the modernisation of services and this has seen a number of residents moving into homes of their own or to live with families. This has created a reduction in the number of residents living within both Branchal House and Craig Street. It is anticipated that all residents in both units will have moved by December 2005.

4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy Implications

- 4.1 It is proposed to delete the 24 posts on the Social Work establishment in Branchal House and Craig Street. This will be implemented on a phased basis as the number of residents is reduced. The detail on these posts is attached at Appendix 1. In addition, the provision of cleaning and catering services are contracted to the Department of Community Services, involving a further 6 employees. The detail on these posts is attached at Appendix 2. Discussions have commenced between the Departments regarding the conclusion of these services.
- 4.2 Staff have been fully involved in the planning of care and support for individuals. A process of consultation with the trade unions and staff is also underway, and in accordance with Council policy and procedures this will cover all of the available options for the staff affected. It is hoped that through the application of the Council's redeployment policy there will be no compulsory redundancies. However, should early retirements or voluntary redundancies arise these will be considered and if appropriate will be reported to Committee.
- 4.3 This reconfiguration of services is being funded through existing Departmental budgets for Craig Street and Branchal House.

5. Recommendation

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note progress in relation to the reconfiguration of residential services at Craig Street and Branchal House.
- (ii) Approve the deletion of the posts noted in paragraph 4.1 and detailed in Appendices 1 and 2.
- (iii) Remit the report to the Community Services Committee for consideration.
- (iv) Remit the report to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for consideration.
- (v) Otherwise note the contents of this report.



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Director of Social Work
28 February 2005

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager, Community Care, Adult Services (Tel: 01698 - 332177) or Kirsteen Cameron, Senior Officer, (Learning Disability), Community Care, Adult Services (Tel: 01698 332050)

APPENDIX ONE

STAFFING AT BRANCHAL HOUSE AND CRAIG STREET, EMPLOYED BY SOCIAL WORK

Designation	Grade	Number of Posts	Location
Unit Manager	RW32	2	1 - Branchal; 1 - Craig Street
Depute Unit Manager	RW30	2	1 - Branchal; 1 - Craig Street
Senior Social Care Worker	RW23	5	3 - Branchal; 2 - Craig Street
Social Care Worker (Day)	RW12/16	13	9 - Branchal; 4 - Craig Street
Social Care Worker (Night)	RW12/16	2	2 - Branchal
Overall Total		24	16 - Branchal; 8 - Craig Street

APPENDIX TWO

STAFFING AT BRANCHAL HOUSE AND CRAIG STREET, EMPLOYED BY COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Designation	Grade	Number of Posts	Hours	Location
Cleaner	Grade 1	2	17.50	Branchal
Cook	Grade 3	1	22.00	Branchal
Cook	Grade 3	1	17.75	Branchal
Domestic	Grade 3	1	19.25	Craig Street
Cleaner	Grade 1	1	17.75	Craig Street
TOTAL		6		4 Branchal 2 Craig Street