

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: BEST VALUE REVIEW OF INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES : PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 25 AUGUST 2005	Ref:SK/ST	

**1. Purpose of Report/Introduction**

To advise committee of progress in implementing the findings of the Best Value Review of Independent Living Services.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 On 14 May 2002, the Council's Policy and Resources Committee agreed a report which outlined progress to date in the completion of Best Value Service Reviews.
- 2.2 Social work services to people with physical disabilities were prioritised for review and this was subsequently broadened to include services to people with brain injury and / or sensory impairment.
- 2.3 The findings and recommendations of the best value review of independent living services was reported to committee on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2004. Committee also approved the final report of the Disability and Rehabilitation Education (DARE) Foundation on the review of services to people with acquired brain injury, which was undertaken as part of this best value review.
- 2.4 On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2005, Social Work Committee approved the re-designation of existing vacant posts in order to progress three of the key recommendations in the report for brain injury, moving and assisting and disability awareness training.
- 2.5 On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2005, Social Work Committee approved the redesign of existing services and creation of additional posts in order to progress the recommendations in the report for sensory impairment services.

**3. Proposals/Considerations**

**3.1 Service Developments**

- 3.1.1 As previously agreed at Committee, six Care Managers and six Social Work Assistants will be based within area teams, each of which will lead on independent living work (physical disability, sensory impairment and brain injury). Existing staff have been matched into posts as appropriate and the new posts are currently subject to the recruitment process.

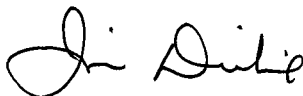
- 3.1.2 Training has been provided for existing staff within area teams to enable them to support people with sensory impairments, particularly around the provision of equipment. Further training and development sessions are being planned in conjunction with area team staff.
- 3.1.3 The Support and Advice for Independent Living (SAIL) Service is now managed separately from the Joint Equipment Service across two sites within Fern Street, Motherwell. This service is managed by the Senior Officer Independent Living (Resources) and is now the base for the resources team which includes Disability Information Officers, and Rehabilitation and Mobility Officers.
- 3.1.4 Work is currently being undertaken with local Deaf people whose first language is British Sign Language to better understand their needs including how to support them with language/communication issues. A sign posting service has been commissioned from Deaf Connections to assist in the transition period. This operates on a weekly basis from SAIL.

#### **4. Finance and Personnel Considerations**

- 4.1 The recommendations of the Best Value Review of Independent Living Services are consistent with legislation and national policy.
- 4.2 The service redesign has been achieved within existing community care budgets, and was previously agreed at committee.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 Committee is asked to :
- (i) note the progress made in implementing the Best Value Review of Independent Living Services, and
  - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2005

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