

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: MEMBER/OFFICER REVIEW OF DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES: PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 25 AUGUST 2005	Ref: CJ/	

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

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 services and lifelong learning.

2. Background

- 2.1 Social Work Committee approved the report of the Member/Officer Review of Day Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities in February 2003. This report set out a clear vision for day opportunities that was based on providing support and/or care to people with learning disabilities within local communities.
- 2.2 Implementation arrangements in respect of day services and lifelong learning were remitted to an authority wide Day Opportunities Implementation Group to provide strategic direction to the modernisation programme for existing learning disability day services.
- 2.3 The Day Opportunities Implementation Group meets on a regular basis to receive progress reports and to provide key stakeholders and partners with a strategic overview of proposed work. Progress reports have been provided for each Social Work Committee since February 2003. This report seeks to provide a further update on the progress of implementation arrangements.

3. Proposals / Considerations

- 3.1 Significant progress has been made on a range of tasks which continue to be undertaken to reflect the broad change agenda that is required to implement the modernisation of existing day services.
- 3.2 The capital spend programme of joint work with the community services department continues. This enables provision of accessible community facilities to meet a range of needs in relation to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

The 2004/05 programme developed a range of facilities in partnership with Community Services, which included:

- a personal care facility being created at Wishaw Library, with 3 automated doors also provided from the foyer to library areas.
- the internal stair-lift being replaced at Motherwell Library. Consultation has continued into improving access to upper levels and creating a personal care facility.

- having the main entrance re-surfaced with provision of automated door entry to the shop and main building at Summerlee Heritage Centre, Coatbridge. Improved toilet facilities, including an adapted toilet and personal care facility will be included in a major refurbishment to be completed by Summerlee at a later date.
- renovations in the Tryst Sports Centre, Cumbernauld.

Planning has commenced on the 2005/06 capital spend programme of work. This involves information sharing with carers and service user forums within local areas to reflect the views and local knowledge available within these forums.

- 3.3 The redesign of staffing structures is in the latter stages. Appointments have now been made to all Locality Leader and Locality Worker posts created through the revised model of staffing approved by Social Work Committee. A small number of staff have sought alternative posts through the redeployment process.
- 3.4 Work has recently commenced on the final phase of staffing redesign involving ancillary grades of staff not included in the first phase. This will ensure a flexible workforce is available to provide more flexible, individualised supports within the new day opportunities structure.
- 3.5 At a local level, work is progressing in implementing individualised care and support services which best meet peoples' needs in flexible and responsive ways. Within the context of the ongoing organisational / systems change, localities are gradually developing person-centred supports which:
- are delivered at times which best meet individual and families needs
 - provide appropriate support to enable individuals to access community resources
 - explore transport options available which best suit individualised needs
- 3.6 A range of training opportunities has been made available to staff in Locality Manager and Locality Leader posts. Training and development opportunities have reflected the training needs of this staff group to enable them to manage the change agenda within services. Training opportunities currently available for staff at all grades include training in person centred planning and approaches. This training will enable planning with individuals to be further developed and extended, thus promoting choice and individualisation of local day opportunities as detailed above.
- 3.7 Work has included the use of the learning disability success map. This developmental tool has been adopted within learning disability day opportunities to ensure consistent progress of the key issues. A development session involving managers from across social work recently used the success map to assist with problem-solving in overcoming challenges in the implementation of the key changes. Methods of sharing this information with service users and carers are being progressed.

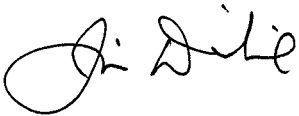
4. Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications

- 4.1 The work being undertaken in partnership with the Community Services to provide access and facilities within buildings has £200,000 allocated in the Social Work capital spend programme 2005/06.
- 4.2 Work to redesign the ancillary posts (which were not included in phase one) has recently commenced and will be presented in a future Committee report for consideration.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of this report



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
11 August, 2005

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