

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: REVIEW OF DAY OPPORTUNITIES : PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 27 OCTOBER 2005	Ref: DM/CJ	

**1 Purpose of Report/Introduction**

This report advises Committee of progress in implementing the recommendations of the Member/Officer Review of Day Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities; and of plans to better integrate this work with the recommendations of the Best Value Review of Independent Living Services.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 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 vision for day opportunities, based on providing people with support within their local communities. The Day Opportunities Implementation Group has met on a regular basis to progress.
- 2.2 Committee approved the recommendations of the Best Value Review of Independent Living Services in March 2004. Amongst other proposals, this highlighted a similar need to modernise existing day services for people with physical disabilities.
- 2.3 Both the Review of Independent Living Services and the Member/Officer Review of Day Opportunities for people with learning disabilities highlighted the difficulties in offering individualised, "person centred", flexible and local support from existing service models.
- 2.4 Given the need to adopt a similar approach to all people with significant disabilities, it is evident that there are clear benefits in avoiding duplication of effort and structures for providing support arrangements. This would allow for more integrated approaches to service development and ensure best use of resources.

**3 Progress to Date**

- 3.1 As reported regularly to Committee, significant progress has been made on modernising existing learning disability day services to achieve more personalised outcomes. It is planned to further develop the locality model and create six locality groups for learning disability services in keeping with the roll out of community planning in township areas.
- 3.2 The joint capital programme with Community Services continues to create accessible community facilities to meet the needs of people with a range of disabilities, in line with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Planned work for 2005/06 includes a refurbishment programme of work within Hallcraig Centre in Airdrie, to develop its use and make it a valued community resource, rather than a centre only for people with learning disabilities.
- 3.3 The work on staffing redesign has been successfully implemented for all but those who are on ancillary grades within learning disability services. This work will require to review scope for including those working in day services for people with physical disabilities.

3.4 At a local level work is progressing in implementing individualised care and support services that:

- are delivered at times which best meet individual and families needs
- provide appropriate support to enable individuals to access mainstream community resources
- explore available transport options to best suit circumstances.

3.5 A range of training opportunities has been made available to learning disability staff, to help them deal with the change agenda. This training is for staff at all grades and includes training in person centred planning to promote choice and individualisation. Staff in independent living services have also participated in this training programme.

3.6 Given the similar requirements to reduce stigma, increase social inclusion and promote individualised support for all people with significant disabilities, further integration of existing resources and approaches is essential to deliver better services and achieve best value from available resources.

3.7 The following day services for people with physical disabilities therefore need to be modernised in line with the recommendations of the Best Value Review:

- The Alexander Resource Centre (Adults Section), Coatbridge
- The Five Day Centre, Wishaw
- The Main Street Project, Bellshill

3.8 It should be noted that day services for people with physical disabilities in the Cumbernauld area are not provided directly by the Council, but commissioned from an independent sector provider. This will be the subject of separate consideration.

#### **4 Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications**

4.1 The work being undertaken in partnership with Community Services to provide access and facilities within Council buildings has £200,000 allocated in the Social Work capital programme for 2005/6.

4.2 The implications of aligning staffing arrangements across day opportunities for all people with disabilities requires to be the subject of further consideration and consultation with trades unions, the details of which will be reported to a future Committee.

#### **5 Recommendations**

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) endorse the continued direction towards more responsive day opportunities for people with disabilities;
- (ii) request the Director of Social; Work to bring forward future reports on implementation; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**27 September 2005**

For further information on this report please contact Bobby Miller, Development Manager on 01698-332069 or Connie Johnstone, Co-ordinator Learning Disability, Community Care (Adult Services) on 01698-332228