

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: DELAYED DISCHARGE – CREATION OF A SOCIAL WORK ASSISTANT POST
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 12 JANUARY 2006	Ref: DOD/AMJ	

**1. Purpose of Report/Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the creation of a full time Social Work Assistant post to facilitate further development of the range of services currently provided in the Cumbernauld area that contribute to the reduction of the numbers of people whose discharge from hospital is delayed.

**2. Background**

2.1 Reducing the number of patients waiting for discharge from hospital is a high priority for the Scottish Executive. This is important, not only in terms of providing the most appropriate care to patients, but also in terms of enabling the NHS to use resources as efficiently and effectively as possible.

2.2 On 5 March 2002, the Minister for Health and Community Care announced a Delayed Discharge Action Plan that contained a number of requirements for local authority/NHS partnerships to take forward. An allocation of funding of £20 million between partner agencies was increased to £30 million in 2003. The Lanarkshire partnership share of this funding was £2.126 million in the first year and over £3 million in the years following. This funding was intended to assist partnerships to reduce the numbers of delayed discharges and individual partnerships have been set targets to reduce delays by 20% year on year by 15<sup>th</sup> April of each year since the initiative was introduced

2.3 North Lanarkshire Council has been an active participant in the Lanarkshire partnership whose approach involves significant interagency working, a structure of rigorous and robust accountability from top to bottom and a strategy that pays as much attention to the prevention of unnecessary hospital admission as to the facilitation of appropriate and timeous discharge with necessary supports.

2.4 This approach is reflected in the development of multi-disciplinary teams who work within the catchment areas of the three main hospitals in Lanarkshire. The Delayed Discharge Action Plan identified the need to extend the services at Monklands Hospital to provide a more robust local integrated service in Cumbernauld that will focus upon the NHS contracted facilities at Carrickstone and the day hospital service provided from that source.

### **3. Proposals/Considerations**

- 3.1 The proposal sets out to further the development of multi-disciplinary work, and includes medical, nursing, and physiotherapy, occupational therapy and social work services. This development will ensure the provision of appropriate local services to the Cumbernauld area to promote the prevention of unnecessary admission to hospital and appropriate continued rehabilitation at home following timeous discharge.
- 3.2 The social work assistant post will be attached to the Monklands Hospital Social Work Team, for line management and professional development purposes.

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

- 4.1. The cost of this post is APII/III, £23,880 including on costs, with an additional cost of £3,000 included for travel. The funding for this post will be met from NHS Lanarkshire delayed discharge resources as agreed in the Delayed Discharge Action Plan and will be invoiced twice annually in arrears.

### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1. Committee is asked to:
- (i) Approve the creation of the Social Work Assistant, APII/III, (35hr) post.
  - (ii) Note the contents of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**29 November, 2005**

For further information on this report please contact Dennis O'Donnell, Monitoring and Standards Manager on telephone 01698-332058