

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: REPORT OF MEMBER / OFFICER REVIEW OF DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES: PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 12 JANUARY 2006	Ref: DM/CJ	

1 Purpose of Report/Introduction

This report advises Committee of progress to implement the work of the Member/Officer Review of Day Opportunities.

2 Background

2.1 Committee approved the report of the Member/Officer review of Day Opportunities in February 2003. Significant progress on implementation has been achieved and this is reported routinely to Committee.

3 Recent Progress

3.1 Having reached agreement on the need to adopt a locality approach to provide support to all people with significant disabilities, work has progressed in ensuring the structures for providing support arrangements are further developed. The Day Opportunities Implementation Group, in a newly enhanced format, will continue to be the partnership working group co-ordinating the strategic direction of an integrated agenda.

Three sub groups of the Day Opportunities Group have been formed to carry out the tasks required. They are:

- Practice Sub Group to lead on broad themes of person centred approaches; health and safety; partnership working with carers; role of health; practice based issues of service delivery.
- Resources Sub Group to lead on broad themes including staffing redesign; conditions of service; budget and finance issues; IT, Training and resource issues.
- Lifelong Learning and Employment Sub Group to lead on broad themes including Further and Higher Education, support needs for learners; employment opportunities

3.2 As reported regularly to Committee, significant progress has been made on modernising existing learning disability day services to achieve more personalised outcomes. Planning is underway to further develop the locality model for people with a physical disability, acquired brain injury and sensory impairment and create six locality groups for services in keeping with the roll out of community planning in township areas.

3.3 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.

- 3.4 The work on staffing redesign required to achieve an integrated model will be progressed through the Resources Sub Group and will include the staffing in current Independent Living Resources and the conclusion of work with ancillary staff in learning disability services.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 As a result of progress made within North Lanarkshire towards developing creative, quality day opportunities, the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities, in conjunction with the Norah Fry Research Centre have requested that a research team visit North Lanarkshire under the project, "Having a Good Day?" (What helps people with learning disabilities to get out and do things in their lives?). Arrangements have been made for the research team to meet service users, carers and staff to share good practice.

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 liaison 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
30 November 2005

For further information on this report please contact Bobby Miller, Development Manager on 01698-332069 or Connie Johnstone, Co-ordinator Learning Disability, Adults and Development Section on 01698-332228