

**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: 18 MAY 2006	Ref: CJ	

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

To advise Committee of progress in implementing 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 implementing the recommendations of the review has been achieved and this is reported routinely to Committee.

3. Recent Progress

- 3.1. The Day Opportunities Implementation Group revised the structure of using sub groups to progress key tasks relating to practice, resources and lifelong learning and employment issues has now developed into regular working practice. The three sub groups continue to report progress to the Day Opportunities Implementation Group, which now meets on a two monthly basis.
- 3.2. Whilst each of the sub groups has key tasks to undertake in progressing the modernisation agenda, a common strand to all of the work is achieving a sixth locality support service in Motherwell thus enabling people with disabilities to receive person-centred supports in their own localities. In order to inform the most appropriate use of supports across six localities an audit tool is being developed which will provide a detailed view of the support requirements for individuals who currently receive support in both learning disability and independent living services. Future reports to Committee will provide detail of the roll out and outcome of the audit and the proposed planning consequences for service developments.
- 3.3. The new joint strategic planning arrangements, including the creation of a Partnership Board for Health, Social Work and other Partners came into effect in April 2006. The Partnership Board for Disability will become the body which co-ordinates joint working on disability services and new developments, including the Day Opportunities agenda.
- 3.4. As reported regularly to Committee, significant progress has been made on existing day services, for people with learning disabilities to achieve more personalised outcomes. Recent partnership work with the Council's Community Services has included developing more flexible transport options within localities.

- 3.5 The joint programme for capital spend between Social Work and 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.
- 3.6 Work planned for 2006/07 has two strands and includes:-
- Continuation from the 2005/06 budget of the programme of work to refurbish the Hallcraig Centre in Airdrie, to develop the facilities and make it a valued community resource, rather than a centre only for people with learning disabilities.
 - Work for the 2006/07 includes Capital Spend on Community Centres which involves developing an action plan around several potential buildings jointly with Community Services, ensuring further community resources in North Lanarkshire townships are accessible and provide appropriate adult personal change facilities.

4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy Implication

- 4.1 During 2005/06, Hallcraig Centre, Airdrie had a capital budget of £200,000. In 2005/06, £50,000 was committed with £150,000 slippage moved into 2006/07. This £50,000 will be added on to a new £100,000 budget set aside for financial year 2006/07. This will therefore bring the total capital budget in 2006/07 to £250,000.
- 4.2 The work being undertaken in partnership with Community Services to provide access and facilities within Community Centres has £200,000 committed in the 2006/07 Social Work Capital Spend programme.
- 4.3 When the audit of existing resources, their use and balance across the North Lanarkshire area is complete, there will be a need to reconfigure some of the funding and staffing resources available towards creating more balanced services across locality areas and to create a sixth locality for the Motherwell locality which has no dedicated service in it at present.
- 4.4 Future proposals on the use of budgets, staffing issues and other associated matters will be reported to Committee.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Committee is asked to:
- (i) Note 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
18 April 2006

For further information on this report please contact Bobby Miller, Development Manager, tel: 01698-332286, or Connie Johnstone, Co-ordinator Learning Disability, Adults and Development Section on 01698-332228