

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: "A HOME FOR THE FUTURE"- PROGRESS REPORT ON SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 26 OCTOBER 2006	Ref. DOD/EOC	

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides an update for Committee arising from the Member/Officer Report "A Home for the Future" and wider service developments for older people.

2. Background

2.1. "A Home for the Future" was the title of a report produced by a Member/Officer Working Group, approved by Social Work Committee in November 2000. In the intervening period Committee has received a number of reports on services to older people under the umbrella of "A Home for the Future".

3. Care Homes

- 3.1. Arising from the Rosepark tragedy, fire safety requirements increased substantially for all care homes. By April 2007 approximately £1m will have been spent on meeting revised safety standards in Council care homes. Diverting that investment has meant alterations proposed to create ensuite facilities and make other improvements at Monklands and Muirpark Homes have had to be deferred and expenditure on the general building and internal fabric of these homes greatly restricted.
- 3.2. Meanwhile, the Council continues to liaise closely with the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care, to conform with new standards. Previous reports to Committee set out the aspiration that all Council homes should provide single room, en-suite accommodation.
- 3.3. Potential service improvements being considered with health partners include the development of short-term rehabilitation to try and reduce numbers of older people moving directly from hospital to long stay care as a consequence of limited opportunities to restore functioning.
- 3.4. The private care home sector grew considerably between 2003 and 2005 and currently stands at a capacity of 1600 beds within North Lanarkshire. For the past two years this sector has consistently carried over 200 vacancies. There is a trend that has seen new-build or modernised homes built to single room, en-suite standards, replace older accommodation which afforded little or no opportunity to upgrade. As well as providing 283 residential care home beds, the Council purchases around 1,350 beds from the independent sector at any one time. The overwhelming majority of these are nursing care beds. This is because the level of investment in care at home has increasingly meant that people who would once have moved into residential care, no longer require to do so.

4. Peripatetic Social Care Team

- 4.1. The peripatetic social care team was established in June 2005 to provide support to the Council's 8 residential units during periods of reduced staffing arising from annual leave, public holiday cover and training events, and to help ensure compliance with Care Commission requirements in relation to staffing levels. Staffing for the peripatetic team was initially identified from the closures of Meadowside and Lochview care homes. There are thirty-three peripatetic staff currently employed.
- 4.2. Measures are in place to ensure consistency in the allocation of peripatetic workers to care homes. There are plans in 2007 to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the peripatetic team and their impact on the quality of care and financial costs. Informal feedback from residential managers has been positive as the advance knowledge of peripatetic staff allocation has reduced pressures on care home staff to provide cover and reduced overtime costs.

5. Very Sheltered Housing

- 5.1 There is a corporate commitment to establish very sheltered housing in each of the six main townships. Very sheltered housing has now been established in Wishaw, Cumbernauld and Coatbridge and a 22 person complex at Paterson Street, Motherwell is expected to become operational in November 2006. Land has been identified for a complex at Union Street, Airdrie and building work is scheduled for spring 2007, subject to planning consent. A number of potential sites in Bellshill are under consideration.
- 5.2 Very sheltered housing is built to higher space standards than sheltered housing and provides meals and on-site support. The development of such provision has also contributed to the reduction in demand for residential care.

6. Home Care

- 6.1. The national policy of shifting the balance of care away from care at home continues to be given a profile through the continued development of flexible in-house home care services that support people at home over 7 days, many of whom previously would have required a place in a care home.
- 6.2. The following key figures and comparisons illustrate shifts in the use of care at home services:
- In 1999 the Council provided 2,649 service users with 15,750 hours of care/support; in 2006, 4339 (+ 61%) clients received 37,213 (+ 42%) hours of care/support.
 - Of the 4,339 current service users, 3,138 (72%) receive a service at evenings or weekends.
 - 33% of older people receiving care at home services receive 10 hrs or more service a week.
 - In 2005 the percentage of vulnerable older people in Scotland in care homes or long stay hospitals was 70.1%, the equivalent North Lanarkshire figure was 58.6%, a testimony to the successful policy objective of supporting more people at home.
 - In 1999 3,200 people in North Lanarkshire had community alarms in their homes – now over 10,000 people are linked to this service.
 - New non-recurring funding of £452,157 has recently been awarded to partners in North Lanarkshire to develop the use of new technology to assist people to remain within their homes through falls detection; movement detection and a range of other risk reducing devices.

7. Day Services

7.1 North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire established the first integrated day hospital/day care service in Scotland earlier this year in the grounds of Coathill Hospital. This targets people with more complex needs and, through the provision of locality link officers, enables others to sustain their community connections through appropriate supports. The intention is to develop a similar approach across the authority. A separate report to Committee seeks to establish a post of locality link officer in each of the six community planning areas in North Lanarkshire.

8. Legal/Financial/Personnel Implications

8.1 There are no additional implications contained within this report.

9. Conclusion

9.1 There is a continued determination to support more older people at home, in keeping with the wishes of the vast majority. Whilst there are challenges created by an ageing population, the scale of progress set out in this report demonstrates that this is, increasingly, a reality for many older people in North Lanarkshire.

10. Recommendations

Committee is asked to:

- (i) remit the Director of Social Work to bring forward periodic reports on services to older people; and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of this report.



Jim Dickie
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26 September, 2006

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