

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM No. **3**.....

REPORT

To: Social Work Sub Committee (Operations and Services)		Subject: A Framework for Mental Health Services in Scotland - Consultation Draft from the Scottish Office Department of Health.
From: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work		
Date: 16 December 1996	Ref: JD/HK	

1.0 Purpose

To advise committee on the content of The Scottish Office Draft Framework for Mental Health Services in Scotland, and to seek approval on the arrangements for the council's response.

2.0 Background

2.1 The draft framework is intended to produce a statement of aims and points which The Scottish Office would expect to be covered in local mental health strategies. The framework does not create new policy but attempts to promote the implementation of existing policy and to build upon initiatives already under way.

3.0 The Framework

3.1 The document makes it clear that individuals with severe and enduring mental health problems should be the first priority of a local mental health service. The framework:

- (i) Emphasises a multi-agency approach.
- (ii) Sets out the essential features of a joint strategy.

3.2 The Scottish Office have held three seminars across the country to discuss the draft framework. Responses are sought by 31 January, 1997 preferably following local multi-agency discussion.

3.3 The document also provides a timetable for the development and implementation of the proposals with a launch in February/March 1997 culminating in the implementation of locally agreed plans in April, 1998. The plans are to cover two community care planning periods (ie six years). Between March and December 1997, Health Boards and their partners are to :

- Confirm joint aims and priorities.
- Assess local needs for mental health services.
- Undertake a service review.

- Identify existing resources
- Draft a six year implementation plan to be discussed and agreed with The Scottish Office between January and March 1998.

3.4 The Scottish Office has established a Reference Group to monitor the development and implementation of local strategies.

3.5 In order to develop a local planning framework each health board area should consider setting up a multi-agency steering group to include all mental health stakeholders. This group would be responsible for overseeing the planning, development, commissioning, monitoring and review of the mental health services to be provided in the Health Board area.

4.0 Comments on the Draft Framework

4.1 While this is a helpful and comprehensive initial draft, there are a number of points which should be made in response to it:

- the next draft needs to be more explicit regarding priorities and should provide a clearer definition of the target group;
- the document is orientated too much towards health;
- there should be more emphasis on carers and their separate needs;
- there are only two users involved in the Reference Group;
- the document leaves much to local discretion; while this can be helpful perhaps there should be some key points of a more prescriptive nature;
- while the models of good practice provided are welcomed, these should be costed;
- implementation will undoubtedly have resource implications, but these are not recognised;
- the six year implementation plan is out of sequence with community care planning time scales.

5.0 Implications for North Lanarkshire Council

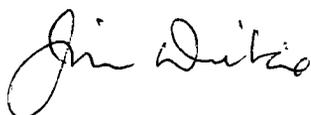
5.1 The department is already in discussion with its joint planning partners in order that a joint response can be made to the Draft Framework.

5.2 Although the Health Board is the lead agency in developing the local framework, North Lanarkshire Council will need to:

- Agree a timetable for action.
- Review current services.
- Ensure appropriate involvement of council departments in the local planning framework.

6.0 Recommendation

Committee is asked to approve this report as the basis of the Council's contribution to a joint response with Lanarkshire Health Board to The Scottish Office.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
December 1996

For further information please contact Brian McGuire, Principal Officer
(Community Care) - Telephone 01698 - 332031)