

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS & SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: NHS LANARKSHIRE CHILDREN'S IN-PATIENT SERVICES – WINTER PLAN
From: JIM DICKIE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 6 December 2001	Ref: SD/JH	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform committee of NHS Lanarkshire's plans for Children's In-patient Services during the period of December 2001 and March 2002.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 NHS Scotland has on a national level been considering ways to best tackle an increased demand for beds due to higher incidences of illness over the winter period.
- 2.2 NHS Lanarkshire has drawn up a comprehensive £1.5 million winter bed scheme to ensure maintenance of standards of health care.
- 2.3 This comprehensive plan includes Children's In-patient Services and will involve additional investment to enhance the service provided during the winter months.
- 2.4 The proposals have been developed in partnership with North and South Lanarkshire formats and include proposals to reduce the number of delayed hospital discharges during the winter. This should free up acute beds for appropriate use.
- 2.5 Report on last years Winter Plan has been previously considered by Committee.

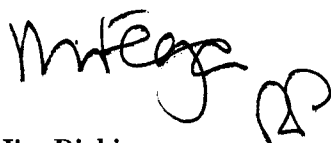
3. CONTENT

- 3.1 During the period December 2001 and March 2002 some beds (general medical) will be temporarily transferred from Monklands Hospital to Wishaw General, concentrating all resources on a single site providing a robust and safe service for children in Lanarkshire.
- 3.2 Orthopaedic and Ear Nose and Throat beds will be retained at Monklands.
- 3.3 In addition there will be:
 - A seven day short stay assessment centre set up at Monklands and Wishaw General Hospitals in order to provide specialist assessment/day care for children during peak activity times.
 - Investment in the further development of outreach teams to provide care to children at home.
 - Introduction of consultant led Rapid Access Clinics at Monklands and Wishaw General Hospitals to provide next day consultation for children referred from Accident and Emergency or Primary Care.

- An assisted transport scheme which will ensure if a seriously ill child is seen by Accident and Emergency staff at Monklands and Hairmyres Hospitals who requires to be cared for at Wishaw, specialist paediatric staff will assist with the transfer.
- 3.4 There is recognition that some parents/carers may experience financial difficulties as a result of additional travel. NHS Lanarkshire is investigating some form of travel support for them.
- 3.5 The plan will mean the release of adult acute beds in Monklands Hospital during the coming months.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Request Director of Social Work to report to Committee at the end of the Winter period.
- 4.2 Committee is asked to otherwise note the contents of the report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
(Date report written) 2001

Background papers NHS Lanarkshire – Winter Plan 2001-2002

For further information on this report please contact Mary Fegan, Head of Social Work Services, Scott House, 73-77 Merry Street, Motherwell TEL: (01698 332000)