

AGENDA ITEM No. 14(9)

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: OLDER PEOPLES SERVICES IN SCOTLAND: STATISTICAL INFORMATION FROM THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 24 FEBRUARY 2004	Ref: JN/TJC	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

1.1. To inform Committee of recently released statistical information from the Scottish Executive on Health and Community Care.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. The Scottish Community Care Statistics is an Annual Report published by the Scottish Executive. It provides statistical data and analysis on a number of important areas in the fields of Community Care and Health Care in Scotland. The recently published report provides information on 5 areas:

- Older People
- Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Adults with Mental Health problems
- Physically Disabled Adults
- Carers

2.2. This report to Committee deals with services to Older People. The Scottish Community Care Statistics report provides occasional analysis but acknowledges that, due to the changes in information gathering processes, comparisons between annual statistics are not always reliable as different collation methods may have been used. New formats are also used that make annual comparisons, both at national and local levels, incompatible.

3. OVERVIEW

3.1 The report opens by indicating that nationally there has been a shift in the balance of care away from institutional care provision and towards community alternatives. There has been a marked drop in the number of people in long stay hospital beds since the mid-1990s. Over the same period the number of residents in residential care homes for older people has also fallen, though at a slightly lesser rate. The number of special needs housing dwellings has increased significantly to over 90,000 dwellings at the present time. Day Care places have decreased slightly, while nursing homes for older people continue to increase at a steady rate.

4. OLDER PEOPLE'S SERVICES

4.1 Day Care Places

There were 7,814 day care places for older people in Scotland in 2002, compared to 7,744 places in 2001. The report shows that during a typical week in 2002, 11,565 people attended a day centre, compared to 11,900 in 2001. This represents an incremental decrease over the last 3 years. In North Lanarkshire Council, the number of day care places provided by the Local Authority has increased from 261 in 2001 to 311 in 2002. Additional purchased services from the voluntary sector increases this figure to 331 places. On average, 620 older people attend in any given week and this represents 14 people per 1,000 of the over 65 years population. This is exactly in line with the national average.

4.2 Special Needs Housing

The number of special needs housing dwellings has more than doubled during the past 10 years. However, the increase has levelled off in the last 3 years. In 1990, there were 43,526 such dwellings in Scotland, rising to 93,829 in 2002. While North Lanarkshire Council is below average in very sheltered housing provision, it should be noted that the Council went from 0 to 68 very sheltered dwellings from 2001 to 2002 and has a programme in place for further developments in this area of provision. In addition, dwellings with alarms (see 4.3) increases the number of special needs housing provision to substantially above the national average.

4.3 Other Dwellings with Alarms

North Lanarkshire Council had the second highest number of dwellings in Scotland with Alarms in 2002 (5,454) compared to third highest in 2001 with 3,419 dwellings with Alarms. Since then, the number of Community Alarms service users in North Lanarkshire has risen even more dramatically, with more than 8,500 service users today.

4.4 Residential Care Homes

In 1980, there were 422 residential care homes in Scotland. This increased to a peak in 1998 with 681 homes before gradually reducing to 621 homes in 2001. This number has again decreased to 605 in 2002, largely as a result of the boom in the Nursing Homes sector.

In North Lanarkshire, there are 10 Local Authority homes and 6 Private Sector homes.

4.4.1 Number of Beds

The number of residential care home beds available, across Scotland, has declined consistently each year since 1998 to 14,843 in 2002. This is a decrease of 242 beds from 2001. In North Lanarkshire there is a decrease of 2 beds in Local Authority homes and a decrease of 19 beds in the Private Sector.

4.4.2 Number of Residents

Across Scotland the number of residents in residential care was the lowest since before 1980. There were 13,159 residents in 2002, a decrease of 194 on 2001. North Lanarkshire Council has below the national average with 11 residents per 1,000 pop 65+ compared to 16 across the country. North Lanarkshire had a slight increase (+6) in the number of residents in its Local Authority Homes in 2002. This is similar in the Private Sector (+6).

4.5 Private Nursing Homes

There has been a slight decrease in the number of nursing homes registered, from an all-time high of 569 homes in 2001. In 2002, this had dropped to 558. While the number of beds reduced by 250, higher occupancy rates saw the number of residents rise to the highest ever number, 22,784 in 2002, with occupancy rates averaging 90.3%.

In North Lanarkshire the number of beds increased slightly (24 beds) as well as the number of residents (14) between 2001 and 2002.

5. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The report carries no implications but serves as a means to compare and contrast current policies and practices within the field of community care.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Committee is asked to
- (i) note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
(23rd January 2004)

For further information on this report please contact Jim Nisbet (Older People) Tel (01698 332031)

A copy of the document has been made available in the Members Library.