

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of recently released statistical information from the Scottish Executive on Health and Community Care. This paper extracts information in relation to Home Support Services.

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 field of Community Care and Health Care in Scotland.
- 2.2 The report provides information on 5 main areas: Older People; Adults with Learning Disabilities; Adults with Mental Health problems; Physically Disabled Adults and Carers.
- 2.3 The report provides analysis but acknowledges that, due to the changes in information gathering processes, comparisons between annual statistics are not always reliable as different collation methods have been used. New formats are also used in some tables that make annual comparisons, both at national and local level unreliable.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Balance of care

- 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 fallen slightly, though at a lesser rate.
- The number of home support service users in Scotland has decreased during the same period. In contrast, North Lanarkshire has increased its number of home support service users from 2,895 to 3,408 between 2001 and 2002.

4. HOME SUPPORT SERVICE

4.1 Older People

4.1.1 Number of Service Users

The last few years has seen a gradual drop in users of home support services in general but specifically from local authorities. In 1996 there were 92,754 users compared to 64,546 in 2002. This includes a reduction of 987 from 2001. Also significant is the increase in the number of service users receiving support from private and voluntary providers, albeit that much of this support was purchased from those providers by Local Authorities. This trend towards purchasing shows a steady increase each year and is up on 2001 by 600 to 6,178.

4.1.2 Number of Hours Provided

Whilst the number of service users has declined in Scotland, the number of hours provided has gradually increased. In 1998 the average number of weekly care hours provided was 5.1 hours per service user. In 2001 this rose to 6 hours and increased again in 2002 to 7 hours. In a similar trend, the number of older people receiving more than 10 hours service per week (the Executive's definition of Intensive Home Care), has increased over the 5 year period. In 2002, 14.2 service users per 1000 of the population aged 65 and over received intensive home care compared to 12.6 in 2001. In North Lanarkshire, 21.9 service users per 1000 of the population aged 65 and over receive intensive home care, a rate 50% higher than the national average.

4.1.3 Distribution of Home Support Hours Received

The report allows local authority comparison to be made in this measurement. A distinct divide is observed in North Lanarkshire's distribution of hours. The first two categories i.e. under 2 hours and 2 to 4 hours are below national averages and by comparison to other local Authorities. However from 4 to 10 hours and 10+ hours North Lanarkshire Council's percentage is significantly above the national average and places the Council in the top five of all Authorities in Scotland. In 2001 27% of hours were given to packages of care 10 or more hours. This increased in 2002 to 30%. This would suggest that North Lanarkshire Council places significant emphasis and resources in its operation to address greatest need and effect shift in the balance of care.

4.2 Dwellings with Alarms

The following is extracted from the Special Needs Housing section. The report indicates that North Lanarkshire Council had the second highest number of dwellings with Alarms in 2002 (5,454) compared to third highest of all Local Authorities in 2001 with 3,419 units. Only Glasgow City has more alarm systems, but many of those are systems to maintain housing stock while the North Lanarkshire Community Alarm provides care, reassurance and security for vulnerable service users and is a leader in the field.

5. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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.



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(23 January 2004)

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