

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE	Subject: REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL WORK SERVICE IN HOSPITAL SETTINGS
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
Date: 4 MAY 2004	Ref: ST/MW

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To inform Committee of the Review of the Social Work Service in Hospital Settings and proposals for the implementation of the recommendations.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. The Review of the Social Work Service in Hospital Settings in North Lanarkshire was undertaken for the following reasons :

- the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland had recommended that a social work service should be provided to continuing care wards in Hartwoodhill Hospital
- clarity about the Department's vision for its service, as well as its aims and objectives was required
- the existing service needed to reimage itself to reflect social work in a modern, diverse society

- 2.2. The review was comprehensive in its range and scope. Work undertaken included:

- consultation with key staff in social work and health
- benchmarking with other local authorities
- collation of a broad range of statistical information about social work referrals, staffing and practice related protocols
- information gathering about hospital services at Hartwoodhill Hospital, Wishaw and Monklands General Hospitals and auxiliary hospitals across North Lanarkshire.
- literature review

3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 The Review confirmed the continued relevance and importance of a modern social work service in hospital settings. From the work relating to the protection of children and adults from abuse to facilitating discharge with the necessary support services in place, social work addresses a range of support and protection needs.
- 3.2 The Review highlighted a number of areas for action. The Social Work service will be improved by focussing on the following areas:
- the development of management information around key performance areas
 - practice development in relation to child and adult Protection jointly with health professionals
 - the development of public information about available social work services
 - the redesign of staffing arrangements to achieve equity between hospitals
 - the implementation of simplified line management arrangements.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The recommendations of the Review take into account the legal and policy requirements of the Council, particularly in respect of community care and child care. There are no specific financial implications associated with the implementation of the review. The majority of the recommendations will be progressed through improved practice arrangements and training. The Department is currently considering options for achieving increased staffing across the two hospitals within existing departmental resources.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Committee is asked to:

note the contents of the report



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Director of Social Work
1 April 2004

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager, Community Care (Adults) TEL: (01698 332177) or Mary Wilson, Service Manager, Community Care (Adults) TEL: (01698-332172)

A copy of the document (Review of Social Work in Hospital Settings) is available in the Members Library.