

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: MODERNISATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE: PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 7 DECEMBER 2004	Ref: MW/KC	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

To advise Committee of progress in the modernisation of local authority residential services for adults with a learning disability in North Lanarkshire.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 "The Same As You?" the national strategy for people with learning disabilities was published in June 2000 and envisaged major change in the provision of services across Scotland. The strategy recognised that people with learning disabilities should lead ordinary lives and services should be mainstream and not segregated.

2.2 The Member / Officer Review of Day Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities, approved by Committee in March 2003, identified the essential characteristics of modernised services for people with learning disabilities. Within the report, the need to review existing local authority residential services at Craig Street, Airdrie and Branchal House, Wishaw was identified. Subsequently in March 2004, following the review, Committee approved the redesign of residential services at Craig Street and Branchal House.

2.3 In North Lanarkshire, the redesign of residential services for people with learning disabilities has recognised the following limitations of residential care:

- the accommodation is not able to meet the standards set in the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act (2001).
- there is little or no choice about where the person lives, who they live with or who supports them.
- the accommodation is often located long distances from the person's home area.
- the person has a small personal allowance of around £15 per week.
- the person has to fit into an existing service that is home to at least several other people.
- if the care provider decides they cannot meet the person's needs in the establishment, then potentially a person's home as well as their support is lost.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Craig Street, Airdrie and Branchal House, Wishaw provide residential accommodation for ten and twelve residents respectively. Individual planning has highlighted that the majority of residents wish to have homes of their own. A small number of people have also expressed a wish to share their own home with another person and three people have expressed an interest in Adult Homeshare placements, where they would live with a family which has agreed to provide support and / or care.
- 3.2 The supported living service providers are established providers from the independent sector. They have been identified largely on a geographical basis so that existing community supports might be maximised.
- 3.3 The houses being identified for individuals are rented properties through North Lanarkshire Council Housing Department and local housing associations. The timescale for property becoming available is unpredictable. However on the basis of average turnover of housing in identified areas, the remaining residents should be allocated housing within the next twelve to eighteen months.
- 3.4 Progress has been made as follows:
 - individual planning has been completed for the individuals living in Craig Street and Branchal House. This is required to commission individual support services for people.
 - two residents have moved out of Craig Street into Adult Homeshare placements and one resident has moved out of Branchal House into a home of their own, supported by a supported living provider.
 - in the next three months, it is planned that three more individuals will have moved into houses, which have already been allocated to them.
 - in the first three months of 2005 it is planned that four more people will have homes of their own.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The modernisation of local authority residential services is consistent with national and local community care policy in supporting people with learning disabilities.
- 4.2 There are no legal implications for the council, and the cost of the redesigned service will be met with existing departmental budgets.
- 4.3 Discussion has taken place with staff in Craig Street and Branchal House, and the modernisation proposals have been outlined to Trade Unions at a recent meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee. Detailed discussions with Trade Unions and staff will take place, in the new calendar year, concerning the personnel implications of the proposals. These will be reported to a future committee.
- 4.4 Information about the modernisation of services has been shared with Community Services to ensure that all staff affected are kept informed of developments.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of this report.
- (ii) request that the Director of Social Work submit a further report to next committee.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
21 October 2004

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager, Community Care, Adult Services (Tel: 01698 – 332177) or Kirsteen Cameron, Senior Officer, (Learning Disability), Community Care, Adult Services (Tel: 01698 332050)