

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES: SHIFTING THE BALANCE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 22 February 2005	Ref: MW/KC	

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

To advise Committee of progress in shifting the balance of care from residential services for adults with learning disabilities to support people living in their own homes.

2. Background

2.1. "The Same As You?" the national strategy for people with learning disabilities was published in June 2000. This envisaged major changes in the provision of services across Scotland by recognising that people with learning disabilities should lead ordinary lives and services should be mainstream and not segregated. This report was presented to Social Work Committee in June 2000.

2.2. Supported living is a specific term, which refers to an approach to enable people with significant levels of disability to live in their own homes. Prior to the local government reorganisation in 1996, there were no supported living services in North Lanarkshire. Early in the Council's life, it was agreed to adopt this approach by introducing new services and, over time, remodel existing residential care services. This approach has been endorsed by the local strategy – "We Want a Life", which was published in 2000 and was approved by Social Work Committee in October 2000.

2.3. People who have a high level of care and support needs have traditionally lived in residential care homes. The placement of a person in residential care was generally caused by a breakdown in their living situation including situations of crisis or risk where the person required care and/or protection. It is generally acknowledged that these services had a number of limitations including the following:

- 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.

2.4. Supported living was introduced In North Lanarkshire in 1998, initially for people with learning disabilities. The characteristics of these services are:

- Separation of the provision of housing and support.
- Focusing upon one person at a time.
- Having real choices and control over where you live, who you live with, who provides support and what you do with your time.
- Having a real disposable income.

- 2.5. North Lanarkshire Council has been working closely with a number of residential care providers to modernise services. This has taken the focus of developing individualised supported living services.

Current Position in North Lanarkshire

- 2.6. In 1996, within North Lanarkshire, there were 154 residential care home places registered for people with learning disabilities. Currently, 108 residential care places for people with learning disabilities are registered of which 82 are funded by North Lanarkshire Council. The remaining places are used and funded by other local authorities or are vacant. In addition to this, North Lanarkshire Council funds, outwith its geographical boundaries, 23 people in residential care which is registered as suitable for people with learning disabilities.
- 2.7. In 1996 there were no supported living services. Currently, there are 258 supported living services commissioned for people with learning disabilities within North Lanarkshire. There are a further 20 supported living services for people living outwith North Lanarkshire which are funded by North Lanarkshire Council. Many of the people supported within these services have moved from residential care, residential school or long stay hospital. The remainder have required support to remain in their family home and a supported living service has prevented them from moving into residential care.
- 2.8. The services commissioned use existing supported living service providers from the independent sector. These providers have generally been identified on a geographical basis so that existing community supports might be maximised.
- 2.9. Over the past two years there has been progress made with reconfiguring and de-registering residential care homes for people with learning disabilities. Reconfiguration of services is where the arrangements for care and support are changed to provide more individualised services to people. These services aim to meet the person's individual needs. This can involve people moving into homes of their own or changes to their existing accommodation. Deregistration of services occurs when the service is no longer registered as a residential care home with the Care Commission. This has included services both within and outwith North Lanarkshire. The details below note the services and number of people funded by North Lanarkshire Council:

Care Home and Provider: Reconfiguration/De-registration Completed	Total Number of People Funded by North Lanarkshire Council
Pilot Project, VAMW, Motherwell	5
Auldhouse Project, Archdiocese of Glasgow, Glasgow (now know as The Mungo Foundation)	4
Dale House, South Lanarkshire Council, Lanark	6
Key Housing, Bellshill, Coatbridge and Cumbernauld	55
Total	70

Care Home Provider: Currently Reconfiguring	Total Number of People Funded by North Lanarkshire Council at the Start of Reconfiguration
Quarriers, Cumbernauld	4
Enable Homes, Cumbernauld	33
Westhaven, Church of Scotland, Rutherglen	3
Branchal House, North Lanarkshire Council	10
Craig Street Hostel, North Lanarkshire Council	10
Ridgepark House, Scottish Society for Autism, Lanark	2
Total	62

2.10. In addition, there are people who currently live within long stay hospitals and care homes planning to move to their own homes with support provided.

2.11. Within North Lanarkshire there has been significant progress with the modernisation of residential services for people with learning disabilities. This progress has seen a considerable number of people moving out of residential care services into homes of their own with support. In the same way a number of admissions to residential care have been prevented. People who use supported living services are enjoying normal and inclusive lives as part of their communities.

3. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy Implications

3.1. The modernisation of residential care services is consistent with national and council community care policy in supporting people with learning disabilities.


3.2. There are no legal implications for the Council, and the cost of redesigned services are met within existing Departmental budgets.

4. Recommendation

4.1. Committee is asked to:

(i) Note the progress being made to shift the balance of care.

(ii) Note the contents of this report.


 P.P. Jim Dickie
 Director of Social Work
 10th January 2005

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