

**Motherwell, 22 February 2005 at 11 am.**

A Meeting of the **SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB-COMMITTEE**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Sullivan, Convener; Councillors Burrows, Chadha, J. Coyle, Fagan, Gemmell, Gordon, Gormill, McAuley, McLaughlin and Shaw.

**CHAIR**

Councillor Sullivan (Convener) presided.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Committee Services Manager; Head of Social Work Services; Manager, Community Care Adult Services; Manager, Older People's Services and Children's Rights Officer.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Dr. Alistair Cook, Associate Medical Director (Mental Health) NHS Lanarkshire and L. Seaton, North Lanarkshire Carers Together.

**APOLOGIES**

Councillor M. Clark, McCabe and McElroy.

**PRESENTATION - REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

1. The Associated Medical Director (Mental Health) NHS Lanarkshire provided an oral presentation on the review of Implementation of Mental Health Services within North Lanarkshire and advised the Sub-Committee:

- of issues relating to the review of Implementation of Mental Health
- that 25% of population experience mental ill health problems in the course of the year
- that approximately 90% of these problems are dealt with by the primary health care sector
- that most of these issues relate to stress, anxiety and depression
- that Scotland has a higher rate of mental health illness compared to the rest of the UK
- of the need to develop community health partnerships
- of the move towards positive mental health care management within communities
- of the need to address two main areas
  - services in Hartwoodhill Hospital
  - improve acute and emergency psychiatric service care shared by six units in three hospitals within Lanarkshire
- to improve the future provision of mental health services

After responding to Members questions, the Convener thanked the Associate Medical Director (Mental Health) NHS Lanarkshire for his informative presentation.

**Decided:** that the terms of the presentation be noted.

#### **LINK CARERS SCHEME**

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of this Sub-Committee held on 5 October 2004, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 22 February 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising on the work being undertaken to review departmental policy in respect of Link Care and Kinship Care Scheme; (2) outlining the background to the review; (3) indicating that the Scottish Executive had yet to report on their review of Link Care/Kinship Care, and (4) proposing that information on the current use of the Scheme be presented to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Director of Social Work bring forward a report to a future meeting analysing the current use of the Link Carer/Kinship Carers Scheme, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

#### **SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE, STATISTICAL RELEASE: CARE HOMES, SCOTLAND - MARCH 2004**

3. There was submitted a report dated 16 February 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the statistical information produced by the Scottish Executive in its "Statistics Release" in relation to the usage of care for both Local Authority/NHS and independent sector care homes; (2) outlining the background to the report; (3) providing comparative occupancy rates for the Council area for both Local Authority/NHS and independent sector care homes as detailed in Section 3 of the report; (4) outlining a breakdown of the key findings as detailed in Section 4 of the report, and (5) indicating that the information provided by the "Statistics Release" paper was compiled in such a way that it could not be used to analyse outcomes which reflect national and local authority policy on occupancy rates.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

#### **WINTER PRESSURES - SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH INITIATIVES OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD**

4. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 1 February 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) informing of initiatives undertaken over the festive season to prevent delayed discharges and inappropriate admissions to and from hospital; (2) outlining the background to the initiatives; (3) indicating that staff had been made available to provide Social Work services over the Christmas and New Year Public Holidays as detailed in Section 3 of the report in order to reduce winter bed pressures; (4) informing that the initial evaluation suggested that the initiative had been a success with both Monklands and Wishaw General Hospitals remaining open during the festive period and the patient need dealt with, and (5) advising that the funding for this initiative was made available from Winter Pressures Monies with the total cost being recharged from Social Work to the Delayed Discharge Initiative.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

**RESIDENTIAL SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES: SHIFTING THE BALANCE**

5. There was submitted a report dated 10 January 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of progress in shifting the balance of care from residential services for adults with learning disabilities to supporting people living in their own homes; (2) outlining the background to the initiative; (3) setting out the current position in North Lanarkshire with regard to (a) the number of residential care homes places registered for people with learning disabilities; (b) number of supported living services for people with learning disabilities within North Lanarkshire, and (c) progress made over the past two years in respect of reconfiguring and deregistering residential care homes for people with learning disabilities as detailed in Section 2.9 of the report, and (4) indicating that as a result of the initiative, a considerable number of people had moved out of residential care services into homes of their own.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the progress being made to shift the balance of care from residential care services to adults with learning difficulties within their own homes be noted, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.

**RESIDENTIAL RESPITE SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES (PHEW)**

6. There was submitted a report dated 20 December 2004 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising of the residential respite service provided by PHEW, Short Break Centre, Motherwell; (2) outlining the background to the respite residential care unit which opened in December 2002; (3) informing that there had been an increase in respite provision from 39% of available bed space in 2003 to 41% in 2004 for children and young people; (4) stating that PHEW was one of the three main service providers of residential respite for people with learning disabilities, and (5) intimating that continuous monitoring of PHEW service was carried out throughout the year, highlighting positive practices and addressing issues as they arose.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

**SOCIAL WORK PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2003/2004**

7. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 9 February 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising the Sub-Committee of recently released statistical information from Audit Scotland; (2) outlining the background to the report; (3) listing the key findings relating to (a) home care; (b) the use of qualified staff in care homes; (c) social enquiry reports, and (d) community services; (4) providing a comparative study with other Councils, and (5) indicating that North Lanarkshire Council in the Social Work sphere was performing in the top quarter in most of the areas measured.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

**DELAYED DISCHARGE IN LANARKSHIRE 2004/2005**

8. There was submitted report (docketed) dated 9 February 2005 by the Director of Social Work (1) advising on this Council's contribution to tackling delayed discharge from hospitals in the NHS Lanarkshire area; (2) outlining the background to the Delayed Discharge Action Plan; (3) comparing the Council's performance with targets set by the Scottish Executive; (4) identifying some of the current themes and issues round the subject of delayed discharge, and (5) indicating that the performance of the Council in supporting the partnership effort in tackling delayed discharge had been significant.

**Decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

---

---

**COSLA EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2005**

9. There was submitted a reported (docketed) dated 1 February 2005 by the Director of Social Work advising the Sub-Committee of two Social Work projects and one joint Social Work/Community Services project, which had been nominated for COSLA Excellence Awards.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the Director of Social Work be requested to bring forward a report on the outcome of the bids, and
- (2) that the contents of the report be otherwise noted.