

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: MENTAL WELFARE COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND DRAFT FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2006 – 2011 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 3 OCTOBER 2006	Ref: RM	

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

- 1.1 This report seeks to advise Committee on the consultation document, issued by the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland, on its draft Five Year Plan - 2006 – 2011. This plan is based on the Commission's view of its role, priorities, approaches and actions, on which it should focus.
- 1.2 The plan has been distributed for consultation and feedback from stakeholders, by 30 November 2006.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland is an independent organisation which works to safeguard the legal and more general human rights and welfare issues in relation to people with a mental illness, learning disability or other mental disorder; (this last term is defined by statute). It is concerned with professional practice issues, user and carer's views, outcomes from national or other reviews of mental health services, which highlight issues, changes in legislation and any identified deficiencies in care and/or treatment, services from partners, who have a "statutory duty, or a duty of care".
- 2.2. The Commission was established by statute and is responsible for monitoring the implementation of mental health and incapacity legislation. The range of legislation which is covered has grown over the past five years, as the Scottish Parliament has passed both the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000, the Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. In addition it is currently drafting legislation to protect "vulnerable adults".
- 2.3. In 2001 following an extensive review of mental health legislation, the Millan committee recommended that the Commission continue as an independent body with enhanced duties and powers. This recommendation was incorporated into the Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. Due to the Commission's increased responsibilities and resources under this Act, it has started a review of its strategic direction for the next five years.

3. Proposals / Considerations

- 3.1. The Commission has set out its strategic direction, identified three key goals and intends to meet these goals. The key goals are:-
- To help individuals using mental health or learning disability services to get the best possible care and treatment
 - To help people working in mental health and learning disability services provide the best possible care and treatment. For the Commission to provide independent expertise in applying best ethical and legal practice, in care and treatment.
- 3.2 The Commission will measure its performance in achieving these goals by means of perception ratings from survey's, consultations with individuals using mental health and learning disability services, practitioners and managers, who work in the services.
- 3.3 The Draft Five Year Strategic Plan identifies the following approaches/actions, which are intended to achieve the goals. These proposals are - to establish more efficient and effective visits to services providers; provision of timely and accurate advice, information; influencing/challenging policy makers and providers; monitoring and analysing the appropriate application of mental health and capacity legislation; and; making better use of information and management technology. Attached to the Commission's document is a list of consultation questions and for comment and suggestions. The consultation document will be disseminated for comment to the North Lanarkshire Mental Health Partnership Board and a joint response forwarded to the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland.

4. Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy Implication

- 4.1. No financial implications exist at the present time for the Council.
- 4.2. Details of the response to the consultation, agreed by the North Lanarkshire Mental Health Partners, will be reported to a future Committee.
- 4.3 A copy of the Consultation document is available in the Members' library.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1. Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
5 September 2006

For further information on this report please contact Bobby Miller, on telephone 01698 332286