

Report

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Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	31 October 2007
Report by:	Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

Subject:	Partners in Practice (PIP) – Strategy 2007/2010
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise the Committee of the contents of the Partners in Practice (PIP) strategy for 2007/10 which is currently out for consultation

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the aims of the PIP strategy for the next three years be approved, in principle; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Social Work Resources) be authorised in consultation with the Chair of the Social Work Resources Committee, to submit the final report to the Scottish Government once the consultation process has been completed and by the deadline for comments of 30 November 2007.

3. Background

- 3.1. The PIP is the strategy document that sets the aims and objectives of partnership working in the field of learning disability in the local area for the next three years.
- 3.2. The aims and objectives of the PIP are governed by policy documents at national level, in particular “The Same as You” which set out a policy direction of improving person centred and socially inclusive services for those with a learning disability.
- 3.3. Since the publication of “The Same as You” and the first PIP strategy document considerable progress has been made to move towards a person centred approach and increase the opportunities for adults with a learning disability to participate in their local community.
- 3.4. In South Lanarkshire, all the hostels that previously catered for adults with learning disability have now been closed and individuals are living in the community in their own tenancy with a level of support appropriate to their need.
- 3.5. By the summer 2008, the last patients in Kirkland Hospital will be living in the community with appropriate support packages.

- 3.6 Although this progress has been impressive, it must be seen as the beginning of a process to build on the opportunities for maximising individual's independence and promoting their inclusion in local communities. Comments have been requested by end November 2007.

4. Current Position

- 4.1. South Lanarkshire Council along with its partners is required to submit the PIP for 2007/11 to the Scottish Government for approval. That draft is available and is currently out for consultation.
- 4.2 The consultation document recognises the achievements and notes the changes that will impact on the way services are delivered in the future including changes to legislation, most specifically the Vulnerable Adult Act which will be implemented by October 2008; the potential Multi Agency Inspection of learning disability services; the tender for externally supported care and the Best Value Review of in house services.
- 4.3 The consultation document recognises the importance of partnership in collaborative working to maximise the potential of individuals living in the communities. Health are a key partner and considerable progress has been made in joint working with health. However, if we are going to promote social inclusion and maximise the opportunities we need to develop and improve relationships with other partners including employment and training providers, leisure facilities, transport and other activities that contribute to ordinary living.
- 4.4 The consultation draft also recognises the need to be able to respond to changing needs and the need to consider services that are responsive to specific areas of disability such as autistic spectrum disorder.
- 4.5 One of the very positive elements of the development of the new services has been the level of participation of service users in planning their own services. It is important that we explore the most effective ways of encouraging individuals to participate and develop participative activity that is responsive to their needs. Part of this will be done through developing advocacy services but also finding effective ways of communicating with individuals.
- 4.6 The strategy also recognises the key role that relatives can play in supporting individuals to maximise their opportunity and seeks to involve them appropriately in the future development of services.
- 4.7 The other key area is to ensure that there is continuity of the service as individuals move through different stages of their lives e.g. from childcare to adult services and from adult to older people's services or where services need to be changed to reflect changing needs within the individual.
- 4.8 Finally, the strategy recognises the importance of resources to support the developing activity including ensuring that the appropriate staff are in place and that they are supported and trained to work with this group of service users.

5. Council Implications

- 5.1. This is part of the core business of the Council and will set the direction of activity for the next three year period. It builds on the successful work already undertaken to improve life opportunities for this group of service users.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. None directly although the strategy will clearly influence the work activity of employees over the next period.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The implementation of the strategy will require to be managed within the funding available to the Council and its key partners.
- 7.2. It is recognised that supporting people in the community has resource implications, but the benefits for individuals and the improvement in their life opportunities is significant.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. None

9. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 9.1. That will be undertaken as part of the consultation process. The document is currently out for consultation before being submitted to the Scottish Government.

Harry Stevenson
Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

21 September 2007

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Healthy and safe communities

Previous References

- None

List of Background Papers

- Draft consultation strategy – Partnership in Practice 2008/2011 (A copy of this Draft Consultation will be available in the Members' Library).

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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