

Report

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Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 September 2006
Report by:	Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

Subject:	Changing Lives Implementation Plan
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Provide information on the Changing Lives Implementation Plan which sets out the processes that will be put in place to support a five year change programme for social work services

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that Social Work Resources complete and submit a self assessment return by 31 October to Scottish Executive
- (2) that a progress report be presented to a future meeting of the Social Work Resources Committee

3. Background

- 3.1. Changing Lives, the Report of the 21st Century Social Work Review, identified 13 recommendations (appendix one) which have received commitment for action by the Scottish Executive. The implementation plan sets out processes intended over the five year change programme for Social Work in Scotland. Detailed milestones and funding proposals for the first 2 years are identified: new funding of £15m for the first two years - £4m for the remainder of this year, building to £11m next year. If funding is allocated pro-rata to local authorities, South Lanarkshire Council would anticipate a 5% allocation share. Further funding commitments for the remaining three years will be influenced by the progress of the change programme and the extent of engagement of organisations in transforming the delivery of services.
- 3.2. A 21st Century Cabinet Delivery Group chaired by the Minister for Education and Young People will be established to secure policy coherence across key ministerial portfolios, with this group meeting six monthly.
- 3.3. A Social Work Services Forum chaired by the Minister for Education and Young People will be established comprising a broad range of stakeholders which will consider the more complex and challenging issues identified within Changing Lives. This will be complemented by the establishment of a Users and Carers Forum supported by the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability, and similarly a National

Practitioners Forum has already met and local forum require to be established by autumn 2006.

- 3.4. The Implementation Plan has been divided into five national change programmes which will be led by an external chair and supported by Scottish Executive Social Work Services Policy Division:

- ◆ Performance Improvement
- ◆ Service Development
- ◆ Workforce Development
- ◆ Practice Governance
- ◆ Leadership and Management

4. Current Position

- 4.1. Social Work Resources have completed a series of 6 employee consultation workshops led by the Executive Director on both Changing Lives and Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) recommendations. Similarly the Executive Director has undertaken a series of meetings with Heads of Service and their management teams to discuss the same, with an initial overview analysis presented to Resource Management Team on 24 July.
- 4.2. Five staff from across the Resource were nominated to attend the national practitioners' forum on 28 June.
- 4.3. The Resource has now established 5 working groups mirroring the remits being considered within the national groups and these groups will provide reports informing both the South Lanarkshire and national agendas.

5. General/Other Implications for the Council

- 5.1. Social Work Resources will require to:
- ◆ Consider and evidence how our self assessment will assist in informing decisions about priorities and determine how the Resource will continue to participate in all aspects of the national implementation process.
- 5.2. The self assessment return has five sections:
- ◆ The first three sections cover the three main branches of Social Work (Children and Families; Community Care; and Criminal Justice)
 - ◆ The fourth section should identify strengths and priorities that apply to the whole service
 - ◆ The fifth section provides the opportunity to identify priority issues for the national change programmes to address.
- 5.3. South Lanarkshire Council will be the subject of audit of Best Value and Community Planning review in the latter part of 2007 and Social Work Resources anticipate the continued Resource activity around the Changing Lives agenda will demonstrate robust evidence of continuous improvement reflecting both corporate and partnership agendas leading to a focus on improved outcomes for those using social work services.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. None

7. Financial Implications

7.1. None

8. Other Implications

8.1. None

9. Consultation

9.1. None

Harry Stevenson

Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

2 August 2006

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Modernising services and managing our resources

Previous References

8 March 2006, Paragraph 13

List of Background Papers

- Changing Lives Implementation Plan
- Appendix One – Changing Lives Recommendations

Contact for Further Information

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

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Ref: STS0616/version3

Appendix One

Changing Lives: 13 recommendations from the 21st Social Work Review

1. Social Work Services must be designed and delivered around the needs of people who use services, their carers and communities.
2. Social Work Services must build individual, family and community capacity to meet their own needs.
3. Social Work Services must play a full and active part in a public sector wide approach to prevention and earlier intervention.
4. Social Work Services must become an integral part of a whole public sector wide approach to supporting vulnerable people and promoting wellbeing.
5. Social Work Services must recognise and effectively manage the mixed economy of care in the delivery of services.
6. Social Work Services must develop a new organisational approach to managing risk, which ensures the delivery of safe, effective and innovative practice.
7. Employers must make sure that social workers are enabled and supported to practice accountably and exercise their professional autonomy.
8. Social Work Services must develop a learning culture that commits all individuals and organisations to lifelong learning and development.
9. Social Work Services should be delivered by effective teams designed to incorporate the appropriate mix of skills and expertise and operating with delegated authority and responsibilities.
10. Social Work Services must develop enabling leadership and effective management at all levels and across the system.
11. Social Work Services must be monitored and evaluated on the delivery of improved outcomes for people who use services, their carers and communities.
12. Social Work Services should develop the capacity and capability for transformational change by focusing on re-designing services and organisational development.
13. The Scottish Executive should consolidate in legislation the new direction of Scottish social work services.