

Report

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Report to:	Social Work Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	22 August 2007
Report by:	Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire Occupational Therapy Services Research
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Inform Social Work Resources Committee of the research of the occupational therapy service to older adults across NHS Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Council

2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the content of this report be noted
- (2) that any implications from the research will be reported to a future Social Work Resources Committee

3. Background

3.1. The SWITCH (**S**ervices **W**orking to **I**ntegrate **T**herapy into **C**ommunity **H**ealth) Partnership was launched in August 2006 in response to the government's modernisation agenda to consider evidence based service redesign of occupational therapy services within Lanarkshire. The Partnership plans to develop an understanding of how to:

- Redesign OT services across health and social care to achieve better outcomes for service users;
- Provide an evidence based and economic analysis to support the redesign of services;
- Support practitioners through the practice and system redesign process

3.2. The Initiative has been funded by South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire, Joint Improvement Team (Scottish Executive) and the Economic and Social Research Council.

3.3. The SWITCH partnership is led by Dr Kirsty Forsyth, Senior Lecturer at Queen Margaret University and Gillian Mould, Senior Lecturer at University of Stirling. The team comprises Nadia Ait-Hocine, Team Leader Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment, South Lanarkshire Council; Emma Dobson, Senior Occupational Therapist, SWITCH Partnership; and Janice McClymont, Head Occupational Therapist, NHS Lanarkshire.

4. Programme of Work

- 4.1. The Partnership has developed a detailed action plan which will conclude in April 2009. The programme includes:
- A literature review to identify best practice in evidence based assessment and service redesign;
 - Service mapping to determine Social Work Resources and NHS occupational therapy service organisational systems;
 - Service map Validation by tracking service users care pathways and occupational therapist's activity;
 - Undertake service modelling that will provide service options for redesign;
 - Service user, carer and practitioner focus group consultations
 - Support employees through the change process.
- 4.2. The action plan is moving into the service modelling phase.

5. Implications for the Council

- 5.1. The aim is to ensure the most effective use of shared services and the aim of service redesign will be to improve outcomes for service users.
- 5.2. The SWITCH partnership has approached South Lanarkshire to participate in the Rehabilitation Framework pilot. This should further enhance joint working assignments with NHS Lanarkshire.

6. Employee Implications

- 6.1. Staff are actively involved in different stages of the project. This does not compromise the workload of staff who continue to meet appropriate timescales in relation to assessment.
- 6.2. Staff will also be supported through the redesign process and training will fit with current registration requirements with staff encouraged to be evidence based reflective practitioners.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. The proportion of costs of the project met by Social Work Resources is £10,000 per annum for 3 years. This can be managed within existing resources. The financial aim of the project is to implement the evidence based service redesign within existing resources.

8. Other Implications

- 8.1. None

9. Consultation

- 9.1. There is a multidisciplinary partnership board in place that oversees the progress of the work.
- 9.2. Social work staff and service users are actively involved at different stages of the process.

Harry Stevenson
Executive Director (Social Work Resources)

17 July 2007

Link(s) to Council Objectives

- Healthy and Safe Communities

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- SWITCH Partnership Meeting Paper : 8 November 2006
- Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Service Strategy : Report to Resource Management Team 23 April 2007

Contact for Further Information

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

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