

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services

Health Improvement and Social Justice Partnership:

9 August 2006

Subject: Response to the Review of Community Eye Care Services in Scotland

1. Purpose

1.1 The report advises of our Joint Future Partnership response made to the Review of Community Eye Care Services in Scotland

2. Background

2.1 The review of Community Eye Care draws attention to work that has been continuing since 2004, to consider the earlier Certification and Registration Working Group Report (2001) in the context of political devolution and continuing work across England. In March 2004, the Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care launched a wide-ranging review of eye care services in Scotland.

2.2 The ongoing review has focused on services for visually impaired people and the three consultative reports covering aspects of the review of community eye care in Scotland: a review of certification and registration; an examination of the needs of visually impaired children and young people; and the outcome of a study of integrated eyecare services in three localities.

2.3 The reports stress that visual impairment services for the future need to be both patient centred, and multi-disciplinary with an emphasis on a preventative approach.

3. Main Issues

3.1 A response was forwarded from the Sensory Impairment Strategy Group covering the main points as outlined below and is attached as Appendix I

3.2 The response included a reiteration of the Sensory Impairment Strategy Group's view that there is a need for key personnel within the Scottish Executive to develop and implement recommendations from the Review.

The Review of Certification and Registration in Scotland Report

- 3.3** Our response points to the shortcomings of the new system in England and Wales and warns against the system in Scotland falling victim to the difficulties that were experienced during the process of change.
- 3.4** The Sensory Impairment Strategy Group wanted the need for resources to be articulated as part of our response in order to meet the expected increase in service provision as a result of changes to systems.
- 3.5** The recommendations within the review point to a requirement for reliable information across services to allow for service planning as well as identifying people with complex conditions. Our response supported this desire for good information to facilitate responsive and appropriate service delivery.
- 3.6** Service users and providers within the Strategy Group supported the review's desire that visually impaired people should be at the heart of the process of registration and certification, and the response asks, that this should be developed, maintained and supported.

The Review of Community Eyecare Services in Scotland: A study of Interagency Work in Three Localities

- 3.7** The review recommends the promotion of a specialist Single Shared Assessment and the integration of local services to meet the needs of local visually impaired service users. Our response reflects the longstanding partnership work within the locality which has ensured service developments and service changes as a result.
- 3.8** The Review of Community Eye Care has put the optometrist at the heart of local service delivery. Our response reflects the need to develop and deliver training about local sensory impairment services to community optometric services to ensure swift and effective services.
- 3.9** Our locality has a longstanding community development structure for people with visual impairments. Our response reinforces the desire for additional resourcing to support the continued involvement of service users in locality based planning of visual impairment services.

A Report to the Eye Care Review Steering Group from the Working Group on Children's Services

- 3.10** Our response supports the need, outlined within the report, for emotional and social support for the development of visually impaired children and young people.
- 3.11** Due to the specialist requirements of visually impaired children within mainstream education, our response asks for additional training opportunities for mainstream staff across agencies who are supporting visually impaired children and young people.

- 3.12** With reference to the previous point, our response also asks for the development of a national training plan for rehabilitation workers (visual impairment) for children and young people with a visual impairment.
- 3.13** The Review makes reference to a possible dissolution of the registration system for children and young people. Our response seeks clarification of the anomalous position of the proposed dissolution of certification and registration for children, while it is not being considered for adults and older people.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** No personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** No financial implications.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1** The Scottish Executive's renewed interest in sensory impairment issues is welcomed by The Sensory Impairment Strategy Group, and is evidenced by our responses to the several policy documents, including The Review Of Community Eye Care Services and the Community Care Services for People with a Sensory Impairment: An Action Plan (2004).
- 6.2** The Sensory Impairment Strategy Group's draft Sensory Impairment Strategy is coming to the end of the three month consultation period, ending mid-August. The Strategy is in line with the recent policy documents produced by the Scottish Executive and reflects the multi-agency involvement in the Strategy Group including local support groups and talking newspapers for people with a sensory impairment.
- 6.3** The Sensory Impairment Strategy Group is keen to work with the Scottish Executive and to be involved in the implementation of the recommendations from the review and from the Community Care Services for People with a Sensory Impairment: An Action Plan (2004) to develop services for users within the West Dunbartonshire area.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1** Members are asked to note the content of the Sensory Impairment Strategy Group response as appended and to note the content of this report.

7.2 Members are asked to comment to the Acting Acting Director of Social Work.

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Keith Redpath
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Background Papers: Consultation document "Review of Certification and Registration in Scotland" June 2006

Wards Affected: All council Wards.