

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Social Work Services

Health Improvement and Social Justice Partnership:

9 August 2006

Subject: **Draft Sensory Impairment Strategy covering services for People with Sensory Impairment**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Partnership of our Joint Future Draft Sensory Impairment Strategy.
- 1.2 The draft strategy is currently the subject of a consultation exercise and the Partnership is invited to contribute to that consultation.

2. Background

- 2.1 In January 2004 West Dunbartonshire Social Work Department hosted an open event with people with a sensory impairment, carers and service providers, as a means to establish a Sensory Impairment Strategy Group.
- 2.2 Public consultation and open events were hosted between 2000 – 2004 with deaf, blind and deafblind people in partnership with services users, carers, the voluntary sector, West Dunbartonshire Council, NHS Greater Glasgow and NHS Argyll and Clyde (as was) on the delivery and planning of services.
- 2.3 The Sensory Impairment Strategy Group was subsequently established with members from community organisations, the voluntary sector and statutory services. That group has developed the draft Sensory Impairment Strategy including an Action Plan.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The draft Strategy links in with local policy documents such as Extended Local Partnership Agreement and the Community Health Partnership Annual Plan as well as initiatives from the Scottish Executive such as the Review of Community Eye Care Services.
- 3.2 The Strategy Group whose members are from community organisations, the voluntary sector and statutory services suggested the priority order of the key issues for people with a sensory impairment.
- 3.3 The Sensory Impairment Strategy Group has published the draft strategy on the West Dunbartonshire Council website and intranet site as well as being available on audio tape, Braille and large print. The draft strategy has been circulated to all

local organisations for deaf, blind and deafblind people as well as national service providers.

- 3.4** Service users and providers within the Strategy group supported the strategy's aspiration that sensory impaired people should be at the heart of the planning, delivery and development of services and this is reflected in the Strategy's Action Plan.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** No personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** No financial implications.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1** The Strategy reflects the multi-agency involvement in the Strategy Group of local service users, support groups and statutory services for people with a sensory impairment, the ratification and publication of the Strategy will continue to drive the work of the partnership.
- 6.2** The Sensory Impairment Strategy has been developed in partnership with people with a sensory impairment, their carers, voluntary organisations, West Dunbartonshire Council, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. The Strategy Group is keen to maintain the momentum of the work and to develop services for users within the West Dunbartonshire area.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1** Members are asked to agree the content of this report, and request updates from the Sensory Impairment Strategy Group on their progress with the Sensory Impairment Strategy.
- 7.2** Members are asked to comment to the Acting Director of Social Work.
- 7.3** Members are asked to agree that, after the consultation period, the Sensory Impairment Strategy Group finalises the document and submits it to the Health Improvement and Social Justice Partnership for final approval.

William W Clark
Acting Director of Social Work Services

Keith Redpath,
Director of CHP

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Background Papers: Draft Sensory Impairment Strategy 2000-2004

Wards Affected: All council Wards.