This report seeks to secure the continued provision of specialist nursing home beds for people with learning disabilities.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Social Work and Health Committee:-

i) notes the content of the report;

ii) agrees to the purchase of 23 nursing care home beds for people with profound and complex learning disabilities at Lunan House for 5 years.

2 INTRODUCTION

Nearly 20 years ago a number of adults with learning disability were resettled from Strathmartine Hospital to Lunan House Nursing Home. At that time they became eligible for DSS residential/nursing care funding and subsequently gained Department of Work and Pension (DWP) preserved rights. Subsequent to this some 27 adults with learning disability became the responsibility of Angus Council Social Work and Health in 2003 when the DWP resources were transferred through Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) to local authorities. The movement of these adults from Strathmartine Hospital did not result in any resource transfer for NHS Tayside to Angus Council. Lunan House has a number of multiple occupancy bedrooms and has limited en-suite facilities. The owners of Lunan House, Four Seasons Health Care are now under significant pressure from the Care Commission and Angus Council to address the physical standards of the building to meet the most recent national standards.

Currently Lunan House has 25 Angus residents. Single shared assessments have been undertaken on all residents to determine their future need for services and plans are in place to consider a move for two residents to more suitable accommodation.

Elected members are referred to Committee report no. 235/07 that approved the payment of the same rates to care homes for People with Learning Disabilities as approved for older peoples care homes subject to completion of a local agreement with these homes. The conditions attached to the payments included the provision of single rooms where an individual requested one, the attainment of a certain standard of training by staff and the provision of activities within the 24 hour care funded.

The individuals who reside at Lunan House require a very high level of nursing care to meet needs including continuing healthcare needs due to the nature of their profound and complex disabilities. These needs include:

- severe learning disability;
- Cerebral palsy;
- Epilepsy;
• Double incontinence;
• Communication difficulties;
• Sensory loss;
• Challenging behaviour;
• Risk of choking;
• Medication issues (including rectal diazepam);
• Treatment issues (including PEG feeding and suction);
• Long term conditions (including diabetes, congestive heart failure);
• Regular and repeated overnight supervision and assistance.

To meet the specific needs of the individuals Four Seasons Healthcare Ltd have further enriched the skill mix of staff, increased the level of senior care staff on duty and introduced an Activity co-ordinator and full time driver with a minibus service to ensure adults with learning disability are able to access their community. The additional costs of these developments cannot be met from the current nursing home rate and are over and above the service offered at any Four Seasons nursing home for older people.

Discussions have taken place with NHS Tayside and Four Seasons Healthcare Ltd on the future of Lunan House and a funding package has been agreed for the next 5 years. This includes a capital contribution from NHS Tayside to Four Seasons Healthcare Ltd to the refurbishing of the home to meet the single room standard. This refurbishment will take place over a 10 week period from February 2008. Alongside this capital contribution agreement has been reached between NHS Tayside and Four Seasons Healthcare Ltd regarding an enhanced rate over and above the standard nursing home rate to enable them to continue to provide the enhanced level of service to meet the continuing healthcare and complex needs of the residents in Lunan House. The difference between the standard nursing home rate paid by Angus Council and the higher rate negotiated for the residents in Lunan House due to their enhanced nursing care needs will be met by NHS Tayside. A detailed specification identifying the additional services over and above the standard specification for nursing care has been developed as part of the contract.

3 PROPOSAL

To secure the future care of the residents in Lunan House it is proposed to enter into a block contract between Angus Council and Four Seasons Healthcare Ltd for the provision of 23 specialist nursing home beds for people with learning disabilities for 5 years. A formal agreement between Angus Council and NHS Tayside will be entered into for the resource transfer element of the revenue funding. This will allow Four Seasons Healthcare Ltd to invest in the residential home to bring it up to the standards required by the Care Commission, prevent closure of the home and avoid the need to move the current residents and the associated upset and distress this would likely cause. It will also allow time for development of clear long term commissioning intentions for learning disability nursing care through the redesign project and the development of facilities suitable to meet the need of this group of individuals for the next 20 years.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Fees for independent care home providers are set annually by social work and health committee. Currently the nursing home rate is £501, the rate agreed with NHS Tayside and Four Seasons Healthcare Ltd. for provision in Lunan House is £591. The additional cost of this contract is £107,640 per annum. This will be funded wholly by NHS Tayside including any inflation for the life of the contract. The capital grant to Four Seasons Healthcare Ltd and the difference between the standard nursing home rate paid by Angus Council and the higher rate negotiated for the residents in Lunan house due to their enhanced nursing care needs will be met by NHS Tayside.
5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

6 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

R Peat
Director of Social Work and Health

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.