Modernising day services for older people has previously been discussed by the Care Home Sub Committee and the Housing and Social Work Committee. Previous reports presented to these Committees outlined that more joint working between Social Work, Education, Culture and Sport Services could enable more effective use of resources and offer a wider range of opportunities for older people in the community. In order to develop resources for older people in the community it may be appropriate to change the model of day care and transfer the management of some Council day care provision from Social Work Services to Education, Culture and Sport. Members have asked for a report on planning for this exercise. This report outlines these plans and sets out a possible timetable.

1. **Background**

1.1 Social Work Services and Education, Culture and Sport Services have been working together to provide and develop day services for older people and to ensure older people have access to the range of leisure services provided in local communities. It is clear that for a number of service users, the primary role of day care is preventative and social as opposed to assisting with personal care. This raises issues about the model of day care and current staffing ratios. It has been agreed there requires to be a review. Part of this process may involve the transfer of some day care provision to the Education, Culture and Sport Service. A project plan has been developed and is underway. This plan takes account of both the Council election process, and the changes resulting from the forthcoming reorganisation around multi-member wards.

2. **Stages in the Plan**

2.1 Across Highland the Social Work Service continues to provide day care in a range of settings, in residential homes, in specially designed day care facilities and in community halls. Some services are registered with the Care Commission and provide social and some personal care while others are more traditional lunch clubs and are unregistered. A review of day services for older people undertaken in 2005 recommended that some services be deregistered to enable them to meet the needs of older people with lower support needs. Staff in ECS have the skills to better meet the needs of this client group. The proposed transfer of a number of facilities providing support services to older people is not just a budget exercise. The development of better services for older people will involve discussions locally with Members and discussions and negotiations with staff, unions, users, and the communities that may be involved. It is important to ensure that both Social Work
staff involved in any transfer and Education Culture and Sport Service staff have the support and skills to provide better services for older people in the new environment. This will involve staff training and continual professional development (CPD).

2.2 A number of stages in the process have been identified and planned for:

- Funds have been identified for a short term secondment to look at the financial implications of and changed model of day care, the proposed transfer of resources from the Social Work Service to ECS, and to identify any savings options that might accrue. Permission to recruit is being sought. A full report on this will be brought to the new Council.
- Planning is underway for briefing managers and staff, trade unions, users and communities. This is part of an overall plan in recognising that a number of older people attending day care centres do not need the intensive care provided by the Social Work service. Older people however value company, activities, a meal with other people and time away from their house. Members in whose wards day care centres that may transfer are located, will be informed and discussions held locally. The Council’s staff consultation process, and the national standards for community engagement, will be adhered to and the plans reflect this.
- Following agreement by members on any transfers, a programme of training and support for staff involved will be implemented. At the same time, and as part of the same programme, Education, Culture and Sport staff will be given training, CPD and support to develop better services for older people through existing Service facilities including community centres, halls, leisure centres and libraries.

2.3 It is proposed that a report will go to an early meeting of the new Council, presenting how the model of service will change and options on facility transfer. Once agreed training and CPD will begin, with a view to implementing the transfer during financial year 2007/8.

3. Additional Work Underway

3.1 The University of the Highlands and Islands has received funding to work up a significant bid to the European Union Northern Periphery Programme to enable older people to help other older people primarily through establishing local social enterprises. The Council has been approached to be a partner in this project.

3.2 Given the desire of Members to improve services to older people, this is a very timely approach. The Council has a long tradition of partnership working with the voluntary sector. European funding to support voluntary sector work, and community enterprises in particular, could add significantly to improving services for older people. It is envisaged that such support could be in the form of training, start up support, ongoing advice and capacity building. This is fully in line with community planning and the Council’s long term tradition of partnership working. Officers have taken the opportunity to enter into discussions with UHI on the project, and, if the bid is successful, envisage close links with the Council’s own efforts to improve services for older people.

3.3 Two consultation days on services to older people were held in Kingussie and Fort William. These resulted in a desire in both communities for better joining up of working across public services and voluntary sector organisations. Work is underway to build on these days, and
for them to act as pilots for rolling out the lessons of how joint working can provide better services to older people in each of the Council’s new 22 multi-Member wards.

4. **Conclusions**

4.1 The possible transfer of the management of day care facilities from Social Work Services to Education, Culture and Sport Services is necessarily a complex project. As well as the financial implications, there are a range of stakeholders involved in the process. Plans need to ensure that these stakeholders are both fully informed, and have a voice in the process. Plans are in hand that take these issues into account and to ensure proper engagement of stakeholders throughout the exercise.

5. **Recommendation**

5.1 Members are requested to:

   a) note the plans that are in place to progress the transfer of some day care facilities from Social Work Services to the Education, Culture and Sport Service and

   b) agree that the project should seek to implement any transfer during financial year 2007/8.

Signatures: and

Designations: Acting Director of Education, Culture and Sport and Director of Social Work

Date: 27 February 2007

Author: Graham Watson, Community Development Manager and Fiona Palin, Head of Operations (CJS and Central Services)