

# AGENDA ITEM No. 5

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: BELLSHILL & DISTRICT AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: GOOD NEWS
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	
Date: 16 April 2004	Ref: PJ/LMcM/JP

## 1. INTRODUCTION

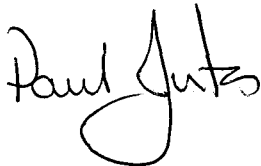
The purpose of this report is to advise committee of current 'good news' stories within the department.

## 2. GOOD NEWS ITEMS

A list of the current 'good news' stories is attached as appendix 1.

## 3. RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That members note the report.



There are no background papers relevant to this report

## 1. CREATIVE SERVICES

### 1.1 Spring programme is a great success

The Drifters 50th year anniversary tour at Sir John Wilson Town Hall, was a sell out. Over 600 people rocked their through the 50s, 60s and 70s.

In addition, this year's Puppet Animation Festival was also very successful. Over 160 young people attended performances of Rumpelstiltskin at Bellshill Cultural Centre and Each Peach Pear Plum at the Henderson Theatre, Shotts.

## 2. COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Dialogue Youth Unit prepares for launch of smartcards

The Dialogue Youth Unit is preparing for the launch of the new North Lanarkshire Young Scot smartcard, which will give access to a variety of services via digital chip technology. The council is one of the only local authorities in Scotland to be using smart card technology in this way. North Lanarkshire was also the first council to be awarded PASS accreditation by Young Scot. This allows the card to function as a nationally recognised proof of age card.

The North Lanarkshire Young Scot website went live in December and now receives over 2000 hits a month. Use of the site increased after a marketing campaign in schools and the local press. It is anticipated that usage will continue to rise as smart cards are distributed across North Lanarkshire. The web site can now be used as a community planning consultation tool to engage young people, which will be of great benefit to the council and it's partners.

## 3. LIBRARIES & INFORMATION

### 3.1 Ipac gives 24-hour access to library services

With the library catalogue now available online, via the council's website, further steps have been taken towards creating 24/7 access to services. Customers can search the catalogue, browse the bestseller lists and also request a PIN number. This will allow them to renew their items online, place reservations and check their borrower records.

## 4. HUMAN RESOURCES

### 4.1 Increase in perfect attendance figures

A review of attendance during 2003 identified over 1500 employees who had no sickness absence during this 12-month period. Although it is recognised that sickness absence is in most cases unavoidable, it is also important to appreciate the sustained commitment and dedication necessary to achieve a sickness free record for a 12-month period. The fact that a large number receiving the award do not work in offices and are exposed to the elements every day makes the achievement even more impressive.

All staff concerned received a certificate, pin badge and gold card. The Gold Card affords the employee complementary or discounted use of certain departmental services between

19 April and 18 October 2004. This year, for the first time those receiving the award were also given 2 months free membership of Access NL.

Impressively, 764 of the 1500 staff who received the award did so for the second, third or even fourth successive year. A randomly selected number from this final group attended the Gold Star Awards ceremony.