1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to advise committee of the department’s conclusions of the review process for those voluntary organisations that are subject to 3-year funding agreements. This review refers to community learning & development annual grants to voluntary organisations.

2. **BACKGROUND**

2.1 The overall purpose of community learning & development annual grants is to promote community learning and development through activities with individuals and groups which strengthens communities by building community capacity; promotes learning for adults by providing community based learning opportunities; and promotes learning for young people through engagement which assist personal, social and educational development.

2.2 A key objective of the Voluntary Sector Strategy is to expand 3 year funding agreements. The criteria as previously outlined allows for organisations in receipt of funding in excess of £10k for 3 consecutive years to be considered.

2.3 The current level of 3-year funding agreements accounts for approximately 75% of the budget available. In the financial year 2004/2005 a total of 13 such agreements as detailed in Appendix 1 were approved and will terminate in March 2007.

2.4 As part of the funding arrangements, all organisations in receipt of over £10,000 undergo an annual review process. However a more in depth review procedure was required as organisations approach the end of a 3-year agreement.

2.5 At its meeting of 15th August 2006 the Community Services (Community Development) Sub Committee approved the framework of the review process.

2.6 Two organisations currently funded and scheduled for review have not been established within the current review for the reasons outlines in paragraphs 2.7 & 2.8.
2.7 In 2004, when these 3-year funding agreements were initiated, funding agreements were approved for the 3 Councils for Voluntary Service. Since then a merger into a single CVS for North Lanarkshire has taken place with CVS North Lanarkshire being established in April 2006. Funding provided through this grants scheme is part of an overall package of funding set in place to support the organisation up to March 2008. It was considered that given the establishment of the single CVS in April 2006 and the development of a business plan at that time, that the review should be held over until March 2008. Thereafter CVSNL is not part of this process.

2.8 The funding agreement with the Coatbridge Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations which specifically was to assist them to expand their services and launch a North Lanarkshire wide Federation. This initiative has been successful and the new Federation was launched in 2006. Funding for the Coatbridge organisation will expire in March 2007 and a full review will take place immediately after, and therefore not part of this current review process.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Scope of Review

Each review examined the current operation of the organisation to ensure compliance with the terms of the award. Specifically the review evaluated the following:

- the progress the organisation has made towards achieving the agreed measures;
- how well the organisation's activities fit with council priorities
- how well the organisation's activities fit with community learning and development priorities;
- how the activities of the organisation contribute to community planning priorities;
- the benefit the local community derives from the operation of the organisation;
- does providing the services in this way, through this organisation, provide best value;
- how does the activities of this organisation fit with other local providers; and
- what are the added value issues, which arise by providing the service in this way.

3.2 Review Findings

The findings of this review are summarised in Appendix 2 of this report. The process has concluded that all these projects make a significant contribution to the Council community learning and development services within the area and contribution of funding is recommendation.

Accordingly the review process has highlighted the need to further consider targetting of services in relation to services provided by CL&D and other providers. Further the funding profile of these projects requires detailed consideration to explore the opportunity for external funding and reduce the reliance on council funding.
In light of these considerations it is proposed that existing funding agreements be extended a further year to March 2008 to allow further consideration prior to any longer term funding be considered.

Recommendations for funding to March 2008 are detailed on appendix 3 of this report.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee;

- note the findings of the review process
- and approve the recommendations for future funding as detailed in appendix 3.

[Signature]

Paul [Name]
GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
ANNUAL FUNDING

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS ON 3-YEAR FUNDING AGREEMENTS 2004-2007

1. Bellshill & Mossend YMCA
2. Caldercruix Youth & Community Development Project
3. Coatbridge Federation of Tenant and Resident Associations
4. Craigneuk Lifelong Learning Association
5. Cumbernauld YMCA-YWCA
6. Glencasses Community Development Project
7. Mobile Play in Action
8. North Lanarkshire Volunteer Development Agency
9. Rochsoles Community Resource Project (NLVDA)
10. Sikeside and Greenend Education Centre (SAGE)
11. Community and Voluntary Organisations Council (CAVOC) **
12. Monklands Association for Voluntary Services (MAVS) **
13. North Lanarkshire North Council for Voluntary Services (NLNCVS) **

** Consolidated into CVS NL
SUMMARISED RESULTS FROM THE 3-YEAR EVALUATION REVIEW PROCESS

1. Bellshill & Mossend YMCA

Background / description of project

The YMCA is a Christian charity, run by volunteers, that seeks to meet the needs of the local community by providing facilities and activities of a social and recreational nature for all age groups but principally for young people. A Board of ten Directors oversees the YMCA. They own their own property and they employ 8 full-time staff and a large number of part-time staff.

Evidence of need

The YMCA is a major provider of facilities and activities within Bellshill and the surrounding areas, organising and running a variety of youth work programmes.

Impact of the project

The YMCA delivers the following services: -
Community Access activities;
After School Child Care; and,
Work with Young People, including the following free services

- Video Interactive Guidance
- Health and Wellbeing Project
- Young People’s Gym
- Streetwork
- Brannock Project
- Main Street Drop-in Project

Why this project

The YMCA own large premises on Bellshill Main Street – an ideal position from which to launch their youth work programmes.

Funding issues

Supporting the YMCA to provide youth work programmes ensures a high quality of provision. The YMCA would continue its work without our support but the programme would be reduced. Our current funding represents almost 5% of their overall expenditure – about 24% of their expenditure on youth services.

Health check

The YMCA is well organised with all the necessary policies and systems in place.

Progress towards achieving agreed measures

Youth services within the drop-in café, youth gym and streetwork have all expanded. Video interactive Guidance continues to do well and a new project has started at Brannock. After school services continue to do well and the sport, health and wellbeing programmes are all popular.
How the organisations activities fit with council priorities

The YMCA contributes to the Council’s ‘promoting health, wellbeing and care’ priority theme by providing high quality youth services and healthy lifestyle services.

How the organisations activities fit with CL&D priorities

Services for children and young people are one of the main strands within CL&D.

How these activities contribute to community planning priorities

The youth programmes at the YMCA contribute to both the community safety strand and the lifelong learning strand of the community plan.

Benefit to local community

As well as youth services, the YMCA provides a community focus in terms of their community café and healthy lifestyle programmes.

Does providing the service this way provide best value?

The YMCA is able to attract the bulk of its funding from its supporters within the community and from external grant streams and so is not overly reliant on council funding. Supporting their programmes is therefore very good value for money.

How the organisations activities fit with other providers

The YMCA is an active partner with other agencies in ensuring its services provide the best possible fit.

What added value issues arise by providing the service in this way?

The YMCA provides programmes and activities that complement other existing services. It provides a community focal point and is well positioned to respond to additional community demands.
SUMMERISED RESULTS FROM THE 3-YEAR EVALUATION REVIEW PROCESS

2. Caldercruix Youth & Community Development Project

Background / description of project

Caldercruix Youth & Community Development Project is a local charity that aims to organise community activities within the rural village of Caldercruix. They provide support and advice for all groups but particularly focus on work with young people. A committee of ten oversees the project and they employ two full-time staff and a number of part-time staff. The project uses the local community centre as its base but also uses accommodation within the nearby local primary school.

Evidence of need

This project is the only provider of these activities within Caldercruix and the project provides a real focal point for this rural village.

Impact of the project

The Project delivers the following services: -
Support for other community groups and activities, e.g. lunch club; carpet bowling; fishing club and local football teams.
Encouraging other agencies to use the centre, e.g. Citizen’s Advice Bureau, Surestart and the community police.
Developing community resources, e.g. the community gym and the Playzone.
Work with Young People, including
- After Schools Clubs
- Music Tuition
- Drama Group
- Street Dance
- Youth Groups

Why this project

This project has been the mainstay of community activity in Caldercruix for many years and is a well-respected and supported organisation.

Funding issues

Supporting this project to provide youth work programmes and support to other community groups ensures a high quality of provision. The project could not continue its work without our support. Our current funding represents almost 49% of their overall expenditure.

Health check

The project is well organised with all the necessary policies and systems in place – although they probably need to be advised to increase the level of their audit provision.
Progress towards achieving agreed measures

General services include advice and office support to over 70 individuals and groups over the last 6 months. Youth services include after school clubs for Primary 2-4 and Primary 5-7. Activities are also provided within the new school campus and the local church hall. Community magazine goes out quarterly.

How the organisations activities fit with council priorities

The project provides a wide range of activities and services that contribute to the Council’s priority theme ‘promoting health, wellbeing and care’ as well as some of the other strands.

How the organisations activities fit with CL&D priorities

Services for children and young people are one of the main strands within CL&D.

How these activities contribute to community planning priorities

The projects youth programmes and other activities contribute to both the community safety strand and the lifelong learning strand of the community plan.

Benefit to local community

As well as youth services, this organisation provides advice and support for a range of community groups and individuals.

Does providing the service this way provide best value?

Supporting the projects core costs enables the staff to attract a variety of additional resources and funding to the village that would otherwise not happen. Supporting its programme is therefore very good value for money.

How the organisations activities fit with other providers

The project links well with other providers to ensure no duplication of service.

What added value issues arise by providing the service in this way?

This project provides a focus for community activity within a rural village and is well positioned to respond to additional community demands.
SUMMERISED RESULTS FROM THE 3-YEAR EVALUATION REVIEW PROCESS

3. Craigneuk Lifelong Learning Association

Background / description of project

Craigneuk Lifelong Learning Association is a local charity that aims to provide a range of adult learning opportunities for adults returning to education. They provide crèche support for their activities and target those in the community who are socially excluded. A committee of six oversees the project and they employ three main part-time staff and additional crèche staff as necessary. The project leases premises that are part of the local Nursery School and buy in training courses from other local providers e.g. the local college.

Evidence of need

This project is the only community provider of these activities within the Craigneuk area of Wishaw. There are other providers of adult education but this project targets those returning to education.

Impact of the project

This project provides a 'first step' for local people to get back into the educational process. They provide a variety of adult education courses aimed at attracting the socially excluded to take part in activities that help raise confidence and improve skills. As such, this project plays an important part in the community infrastructure.

Why this project

This project has been the mainstay of community activity in Craigneuk area of Wishaw for many years and is a well-respected and supported organisation.

Funding issues

Supporting this project to provide adult education programmes ensures a good diversity of provision. The project could not continue its work without our support. Our current funding represents almost 90% of their overall expenditure, and this group need to improve their ability to attract additional and alternative funding.

Health check

The project is well organised with all the necessary policies and systems in place – they have just undergone a thorough check over of their systems, supported by the local patch team.

Progress towards achieving agreed measures

The project continues to meet its agreed outcomes and performance measures and the management committee are exploring the possibility of producing a development plan, which will help them set their own targets and performance standards.
How the organisations activities fit with council priorities

This project contributes to the Council's 'encouraging lifelong learning' priority theme by providing high quality adult education opportunities and healthy lifestyle courses.

How the organisations activities fit with CL&D priorities

Community based adult learning is one of the main strands within CL&D.

How these activities contribute to community planning priorities

The project plays an active local part in the planning of local adult learning opportunities.

Benefit to local community

As well as adult education courses, this organisation provides educational advice and support, including crèche support, for a range of individual learners.

Does providing the service this way provide best value?

This project is a major provider of services within the Craigneuk community of Wishaw, and is responsive to local needs. It provides adult learning opportunities in a way the authority cannot do.

How the organisations activities fit with other providers

The project links well with other providers to ensure no duplication of service.

What added value issues arise by providing the service in this way?

This project provides a focus for community activity and adult learning within a area that has had 'deprived' status over a long period of time.
SUMMERISED RESULTS FROM THE 3-YEAR EVALUATION REVIEW PROCESS

4. Cumbernauld YMCA

Background / description of project

The YMCA-YWCA is a Christian charity, run by volunteers, that seeks to meet the needs of the local community by providing facilities and activities of a social and recreational nature for all age groups but principally for young people. This association also runs 'The Foyer' a temporary accommodation project for homeless young people. A Board of twelve Directors oversees the YMCA-YWCA. They own their own property and they employ 36 full-time staff and a large number of part-time staff.

Evidence of need

The YMCA-YWCA is a major provider of facilities and activities within Bellshill and the surrounding areas, organising and running a variety of youth work programmes.

Impact of the project

The YMCA-YWCA delivers the following services: -
Children's services (POMP) out of school care – including outreach bases in Airdrie and Abronhill;
North Lanarkshire Foyer;
Health and fitness programmes; and,
Work with Young People.

Why this project

The YMCA-YWCA own their own premises in the Kildrum area of Cumbernauld but they also use a number of other bases in order to run their outreach programmes.

Funding issues

Supporting the YMCA-YWCA to provide youth work programmes ensures a high quality of provision. The YMCA-YWCA would continue its work without our support but the programme would be reduced. Our current funding represents just over 2% of their overall expenditure – about 10% of their expenditure on youth services.

Health check

The YMCA-YWCA is well organised with all the necessary policies and systems in place.
Progress towards achieving agreed measures

Youth facilities are now provided within Carbrain and Kildrum. A new youth forum has been initiated and a number of healthy lifestyles programmes have been put in place. Continued work within ‘The Foyer’ provides supported accommodation and involves the teenagers in their own newsletter.

How the organisations activities fit with council priorities

The YMCA-YWCA contributes to the ‘promoting health, wellbeing and care, priority theme of the Council by providing a range of services for young people.

How the organisations activities fit with CL&D priorities

Services for children and young people is one of the main strands within CL&D.

How these activities contribute to community planning priorities

The YMCA-YWCA is very active in many of the planning forums throughout North Lanarkshire.

Benefit to local community

The YMCA-YWCA provides a variety of services for the local community, including childcare opportunities.

Does providing the service this way provide best value?

This project is a major provider of services within the Carbrain / Kildrum communities of Cumbernauld, and is responsive to local needs.

How the organisations activities fit with other providers

The YMCA-YWCA plays an active part in local planning forums.

What added value issues arise by providing the service in this way?

The YMCA-YWCA provide activities within areas that allows other services to concentrate in other areas.
SUMMERISED RESULTS FROM THE 3-YEAR EVALUATION REVIEW PROCESS

5. Glencassels Community Development Project

Background / description of project

Glencassels Community Development Project is a local charity that aims to provide youth services and other community activities within the Craigneuk area of Wishaw. A committee of nineteen oversees the project and they employ two caretakers. The project owns their own property and run their activities mainly through volunteers.

Evidence of need

This project is a significant provider of youth services and other community activities within the Craigneuk area of Wishaw and provides a real focal point for this community there.

Impact of the project

The Project delivers the following services: -
Community based activities, e.g. drop-in cafe; over 50’s group, and, men’s health group.
Encouraging other agencies to use the centre, e.g. Generation Youth, Routes to Work and the community police.
Work with Young People, including
• 5-8 youth group
• 9-11 youth group
• 12-15 youth group
• Girls group
• Drama club

Why this project

This project has been the mainstay of community activity in the Craigneuk area of Wishaw for many years and is a well-respected and supported organisation.

Funding issues

Supporting this project to provide youth work programmes and other community activities ensures a high quality of provision. The project could not continue its work without our support. Our current funding represents almost 54% of their overall expenditure.

Health check

The project is well organised with all the necessary policies and systems in place – they have just undergone a thorough check over of their systems, supported by the local patch team.
Progress towards achieving agreed measures

This project is an extremely valuable service for children and young people operating in the Craigneuk area of Wishaw. It continues to provide a focal point for the community and is strongly supported by the volunteers who run it.

How the organisations activities fit with council priorities

The project provides a good community resource base as well as offering a well rounded programme for young people in particular. This contributes to the ‘promoting health, wellbeing and care, priority themes of the Council.

How the organisations activities fit with CL&D priorities

Services for children and young people is one of the main strands within CL&D.

How these activities contribute to community planning priorities

The project takes part in local planning forums.

Benefit to local community

As well as providing a community focus, this project strives to attract additional resources for the area.

Does providing the service this way provide best value?

As the programme is mainly run with volunteers this project provides particularly good value for money.

How the organisations activities fit with other providers

The project links well with other providers to ensure no duplication of service

What added value issues arise by providing the service in this way?

This project provides a focus for community activity within a area that has had ‘deprived’ status over a long period of time.
SUMMERISED RESULTS FROM THE 3-YEAR EVALUATION REVIEW PROCESS

6. Mobile Play in Action

Background / description of project

Established in 1988, this charitable organisation is now an established provider of quality childcare to a range of organisations throughout North Lanarkshire. They are registered to provide crèche provision in a range of premises throughout the area, subject to them being risk assessed. They operate their own transport and this flexibility of service has proved to be a great asset to a variety of community organisations and other agencies. They have an office base within Rosehall High School in Coatbridge. They currently have a committee of four and employ two part-time staff.

Evidence of need

This organisation is the only flexible crèche facility operating within the council area.

Impact of the project

During the 6 months April to September 2006, Mobile Play provided 196 crèches catering for 1,426 children, employing 16 local crèche staff in the process.

Why this project

Mobile Play has become a well respected and well regarded organisation throughout North Lanarkshire and it is well placed as a body to continue to provide quality mobile childcare.

Funding issues

Supporting this project to provide mobile crèche support to other community organisations and agencies ensures a high quality of provision. The project would continue its work without our support but at a greatly reduced level. Because of our funding, this organisation provides a number of ‘free’ crèches to community organisations where funding may be a difficulty e.g. providing a crèche for a local playgroup while they hold their AGM. Our current funding represents just over 28% of their overall expenditure.

Health check

The project is well organised with all the necessary policies and systems in place – although they probably need to be advised to increase the level of their audit provision.
Progress towards achieving agreed measures

Mobile Play provides crèche support to allow parents and carers to attend groups which benefit their health and well-being and to allow them to further develop their skills. Over the last 3 years this group have established themselves as a provider of quality childcare to a range of organisations and agencies throughout North Lanarkshire.

How the organisations activities fit with council priorities

The flexible registration arrangements this organisation have with the Care Commission means that they can respond quickly to situations the Councils own crèche cover can't. Thus they are able to supply a valuable service which complements the Councils services.

How the organisations activities fit with CL&D priorities

Much of the crèche support is targeted towards situations and opportunities that are promoted by CL&D – e.g. adult education opportunities, AGM’s for a variety of community organisations etc.

How these activities contribute to community planning priorities

This organisation is not specifically active within the community planning structures.

Benefit to local community

As well as supporting local organisations to conduct their business, this organisation has the ability to provide a number of crèches free of charge e.g. in situations where the community organisation would be unable to fund this type of provision for themselves.

Does providing the service this way provide best value?

This organisation fills an important niche in the childcare market and does so at a very competitive rate – providing a good value service.

How the organisations activities fit with other providers

This organisation links with other providers and client agencies when planning their programme.

What added value issues arise by providing the service in this way?

Providing this service this way means that the local community benefit from low cost crèche support for their activities which would otherwise be unavailable.
SUMMERISED RESULTS FROM THE 3-YEAR EVALUATION REVIEW PROCESS

7. North Lanarkshire Volunteer Development Agency (NLVDA)

Background / description of project

The Volunteer Centre in North Lanarkshire is one of the most progressive in Scotland and it has a high profile locally, nationally and across Europe. In addition to being the main support organisation for voluntary activity, the project also carries out the important function of monitoring disclosure checks on community volunteers. They have their own premises on Wishaw Main Street but are active throughout North Lanarkshire. A board of 12 directors supervises the project and they employ 11 full-time staff and a variety of part-time staff and volunteers.

Evidence of need

This organisation is the only organisation operating within the council area that systematically supports individuals as volunteers as well as promoting volunteering and volunteering organisations.

Impact of the project

This organisation supports a vast range of activity – specifically the following core activities:

- Identification, development and promotion of volunteering opportunities;
- Generic and role-specific promotion of volunteering to the people of North Lanarkshire;
- Recruitment/registration of volunteers;
- Sign-posting/matching/guiding volunteers towards opportunities;
- Targeting of under-represented groups and dismantling barriers to encourage participation in volunteer action;
- Working with volunteer engaging organisations and potential engagers to improve the experience of volunteers;
- Supporting the development of volunteer managers/supervisors;
- Advising on good practice for policy and procedures related to volunteer involvement;
- Facilitating networking opportunities for volunteer engaging organisations;
- Providing training and other capacity building activities targeted at volunteers and engagers, and,
- Participating in local and national planning and strategic development forums

Why this project

This project has become a well respected and well regarded organisation within North Lanarkshire, Scotland and Europe. It is well placed as a body to continue to provide a quality service to volunteers within North Lanarkshire.
Funding issues

Supporting this project to co-ordinate, promote and support voluntary activity within North Lanarkshire ensures a high quality of provision. The core costs of this project come from the Scottish Office and North Lanarkshire Council and, while the organisation would continue its work without our support, it would seriously reduce its capacity to operate. The organisation raises all of its funding for its community programmes from external sources. Our current funding represents almost 15% of their overall expenditure and almost 45% of their core funding.

Health check

The project is well organised with all the necessary policies and systems in place

Progress towards achieving agreed measures

The Volunteer Centre in North Lanarkshire is one of the most progressive in Scotland and it has a high profile locally, nationally and across Europe. In addition to providing comprehensive support for local volunteers the Centre also carries out the important function of monitoring disclosure checks on community volunteers.

How the organisations activities fit with council priorities

The Volunteer Centre is an important partner with the Council in terms of the Voluntary Sector Strategy for North Lanarkshire and the Centre takes an active role in promoting and progressing this strategy.

How the organisations activities fit with CL&D priorities

The Volunteer Centre has played an active role in CL&D Learning plans and is an active partner in promoting local activities. Their support for local volunteers is an integral part of the partnership with the Council and with CL&D staff.

How these activities contribute to community planning priorities

The Volunteer Centre is an active Partner in the community planning process, actively highlighting the role volunteers play.

Benefit to local community

The support for local volunteers increases all the time and this year the number of new volunteers assisted should exceed 120. Acting as the support for organisations seeking disclosure checks is also an extremely valuable service, without which many groups could not operate.

Does providing the service this way provide best value?

Although the Volunteer Centre gets our largest grant, this organisation provides an excellent service to both volunteers and voluntary groups within North Lanarkshire and is a very cost effective way of providing these services.

How the organisations activities fit with other providers
The Volunteer Centre is an active partner with other local providers and this is an important process, which avoids duplication of effort.

**What added value issues arise by providing the service in this way?**

Providing these services in this way gives local organisations an important additional support and so contributes to building the capacity of the local community.
SUMMERISED RESULTS FROM THE 3-YEAR EVALUATION REVIEW PROCESS

8. Rochsoles Community Resource Project

Background / description of project

Formed in 1992, Rochsoles Community Resource project has been the mainstay and focus of community activity within the Rochsoles area of Airdrie ever since. Although there is a clear focus on benefit advice the project is also a catalyst for many other community activities within the area. The project utilises a Local Authority flat as its base. They have a current committee of seven and they employ one full-time worker and one part-time worker.

Evidence of need

This community organisation operates within an area of Airdrie that has a long history of neglect and is now subject to significant structural changes. The focus this organisation provides for the community contributes greatly to its wellbeing.

Impact of the project

Over the last 6 months:

- 124 enquiries regarding welfare benefits was received and a total of £95,347 was raised in respect to disability benefits.
- A further 22 referrals were made to other partner agencies (Social Work, the Anti-Social Task Force and Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Unemployed Workers Centre)
- Three new groups were supported (Healthy Eating Group, Holehills Action Group and the Drugs Awareness Group).
- A variety of community events were supported including the Community Fun Day and the Cairn Housing Open Day and 11 other community groups used their premises for a total of 71 meetings.

The project also took part in local campaigning issues around issues such as safe play areas for young people, community safety and the regeneration of local waste ground.

Why this project

This project has become a well respected and well regarded organisation within North Airdrie and it is well placed as a body to continue to provide quality advice to the local population and to campaign for local issues.

Funding issues

Supporting this project to provide welfare benefits advice and other community activities ensures a diversity of provision. The project could not continue its work without our support. Our current funding represents almost 79% of their overall expenditure.
Health check

The project is well organised with all the necessary policies and systems in place.

Progress towards achieving agreed measures

This project is a small but highly effective community support and advice giving agency working within a recognised ‘deprived’ area of Airdrie. Over the last three years, this organisation has contributed to the community cohesion of the area and has been the power behind many community initiatives.

How the organisations activities fit with council priorities

This organisation targets its work and advice towards those on low incomes and so provides a valuable community based addition to existing Council services.

How the organisations activities fit with CL&D priorities

While the advice giving side of their activities align better with Social Work, their community activities meet CL&D priorities and they often work closely with CL&D and other partners in achieving these aims.

How these activities contribute to community planning priorities

This organisation is heavily involved in community planning at the local level.

Benefit to local community

This organisation provides a real community focus for the local area resulting in much community activity that would otherwise not take place. It also provides a valuable local support mechanism for emerging and established community groups.

Does providing the service this way provide best value?

This is a very localised, direct and effective way of providing quality community support within a recognised area of need.

How the organisations activities fit with other providers

This organisation is very good at consulting with and co-ordinating the local input of other agencies and this joint action results in effective community services.

What added value issues arise by providing the service in this way?

The provision of this service in this way is a highly efficient and cost effective way of providing this level of community support.
SUMMERISED RESULTS FROM THE 3-YEAR EVALUATION REVIEW PROCESS

9. Sikeside and Greenend Education Centre (SAGE)

**Background / description of project**

SAGE is a local charity that aims to provide a range of adult learning opportunities for adults returning to education. They provide creche support for their activities and target those in the community who are socially excluded. A committee of eight oversees the project and they employ one full-time caretaker, three other part-time staff and three part-time creche staff. The project leases premises that are part of the local School and buy in training courses from other local providers e.g. the local college.

**Evidence of need**

This project is the only community provider of these activities within the Sikeside and Greenend area of Coatbridge. There are other providers of adult education but this project targets those returning to education.

**Impact of the project**

This project provides a ‘first step’ for local people to get back into the educational process. They provide a variety of adult education courses aimed at attracting the socially excluded to take part in activities that help raise confidence and improve skills. As such, this project plays an important part in the community infrastructure.

**Why this project**

This project has been the mainstay of community activity in Sikeside and Greenend area of Coatbridge for many years and is a well-respected and supported organisation.

**Funding issues**

Supporting this project to provide adult education programmes ensures a good diversity of provision. The project could not continue its work without our support. Our current funding represents almost 82% of their overall expenditure, and this group need to improve their ability to attract additional and alternative funding.

**Health check**

The project is well organised with all the necessary policies and systems in place.

**Progress towards achieving agreed measures**

Project is meeting all measures agreed and complements the provision in Lifelong Learning. The Management committee has agreed to improve learner recording systems and community surveys.
How the organisations activities fit with council priorities

This project contributes to the Council's 'encouraging lifelong learning' priority theme by providing high quality adult education opportunities and healthy lifestyle courses.

How the organisations activities fit with CL&D priorities

Community based adult learning is one of the main strands within CL&D.

How these activities contribute to community planning priorities

The project plays an active local part in the planning of local adult learning opportunities.

Benefit to local community

As well as adult education courses, this organisation provides educational advice and support, including crèche support, for a range of individual learners.

Does providing the service this way provide best value?

This project is a major provider of services within the Sikeside community of Coatbridge, and is responsive to local needs. It provides adult learning opportunities in a way the authority cannot do.

How the organisations activities fit with other providers

The project links well with other providers to ensure no duplication of service

What added value issues arise by providing the service in this way?

This project provides a focus for community activity and adult learning within a area that has had 'deprived' status over a long period of time.
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<td>Bellshill &amp; Mossend YMCA&lt;br&gt;Bellshill</td>
<td>£25,118</td>
<td>£25,871</td>
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<td>CSD/AG02/2007-8</td>
<td>Caldercruix Youth &amp; Community Development Project&lt;br&gt;Airdrie</td>
<td>£49,700</td>
<td>£50,818</td>
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<td>CSD/AG05/2007-8</td>
<td>Craigneuik Lifelong Learning Association&lt;br&gt;Wishaw</td>
<td>£53,025</td>
<td>£53,836</td>
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<td>CSD/AG07/2007-8</td>
<td>Cumbernauld YMCA-YWCA&lt;br&gt;Cumbernauld</td>
<td>£25,103</td>
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<td>CSD/AG08/2007-8</td>
<td>Glencasses Community Development Project&lt;br&gt;Wishaw</td>
<td>£30,020</td>
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<td>CSD/AG09/2007-8</td>
<td>Mobile Play in Action&lt;br&gt;Coatbridge</td>
<td>£31,364</td>
<td>£32,304</td>
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<td>CSD/AG12/2007-8</td>
<td>North Lanarkshire Volunteer Development Centre (NLVDA)&lt;br&gt;Wishaw</td>
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<td>CSD/AG14/2007-8</td>
<td>Rochsoles Community Resource Project&lt;br&gt;Airdrie</td>
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<td>CSD/AG15/2007-8</td>
<td>Sikeside and Greenend Education Centre (SAGE)&lt;br&gt;Coatbridge</td>
<td>£64,873</td>
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