

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: WOMEN'S PLACEMENT PROGRAMME
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 24 August 2000	Ref: JT/EH/REP719	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Economic Development Committee in order to advise members on the operation of the Women's Placement Programme (WPP) which was delivered during the period February – June 2000.

2. Sustainability

- 2.1 The Women's Placement Programme (WPP) meets the sustainable development policy adopted by the Council through Local Agenda 21 by addressing elements of :-

- Section 3 – “Economy and Work”
- Section 8 – “Social Needs”
- Section 10 – “Participation & Democracy”
- Section 11 – “Partnership & Funding”

3. Background

- 3.1 The Women's Placement Programme (WPP) is a 12 – 16 week programme of training and work placement (within the beneficiaries chosen field of employment) for a period of 4 – 8 hours per week. The core target group consists of women who wish to return to the labour market/employment. The programme, which is provided in partnership with Coatbridge College aims to provide women returners with the opportunity to obtain new or update existing skills which appeal to potential employers. Travelling expenses and childcare allowance is available to assist participants, and the programme is provided in friendly non-threatening surroundings. Participants who successfully complete the programme are awarded the National Examination Board Introductory Award in Management.

4. WPP February – June 2000

- 4.1 The WPP commenced in February 2000 and was fully funded by North Lanarkshire Council as a response to requests from women looking for assistance to enable them to return to the job market. In response to minimal marketing and promotion a total of 52 women attended an introductory session on the programme which resulted in 31 participants.
- 4.2 **Methodology** - The format of the course involved two distinct phases – firstly a one day per week training session for a total of 9 sessions was provided by Coatbridge College. This covered topics such as “The World of Work”, “Strategies for Success”, Information Technology and Job search.

- 4.2.1 The second part of the programme involved a work placement for a period of 8 sessions. Placements were in an area of the women's choice – both in terms of geographical location and the sector of work they wished to gain employment in. At end of the programme participants are invited to complete an evaluation report and participate any further one hour one to one session which is arranged to discuss more detailed feedback with an opportunity for sign-posting.
- 4.3 **Placements** - An eight session placement was implemented for each of the 31 participants and a high element of choice in terms of the day, hours, geographical location and sector of employment was made available to each participant.
- 4.3.1 As members will note from Appendix 1 to this report, which details the number of participants, placement organisations and type of placement opportunity a wide variety of job placements were achieved. These ranged from Classroom Assistants (North Lanarkshire Council) to Catering Assistants (Bouzy Rouge). Although not a primary target of the WPP it is heartening to note that 10 women who participated on the WPP have gained employment as a direct result of the programme.
- 4.4 **Participants' Age Profile** - As members will note from Appendix 2 the majority of participants (42%) were in the age range 40-49 years. Indeed, over half (52%) of all female participants were aged over 40.
- 4.5 **Employment Statistics** - Appendix 3 attached details the length of unemployment of WPP participants. The highest proportion (36%) of participants were unemployed less than 6 months with the next highest (20%) being unemployed between 24 – 36 months.
- 4.6 **Programme Funding** - The total project costs for the delivery and management of the WPP amounted to £16,008.00.

5. Future Provision

- 5.1 Development work is at present ongoing with regard to future provision of the WPP in partnership with Coatbridge, Cumbernauld and Motherwell College of Education and the ESF Objective 3 Programme. Under the Objective 3 Programme the WPP will be focused on Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) areas within North Lanarkshire. A submission is required to the Programme by 8 September 2000 with a decision on the outcome of the application likely to be made in October/November 2000. Members will be informed of the outcome of the application.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Economic Development Committee :-
- (i) Note the contents of this report detailing the successful operation and delivery of the Women's Placement Programme for the period February – June 2000
 - (ii) Note that a further report will be submitted on the future operation of the programme.



David M Porch
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

For further information please contact John J Turley, Senior Economic Development Officer,
 Tel: 01236 616271.

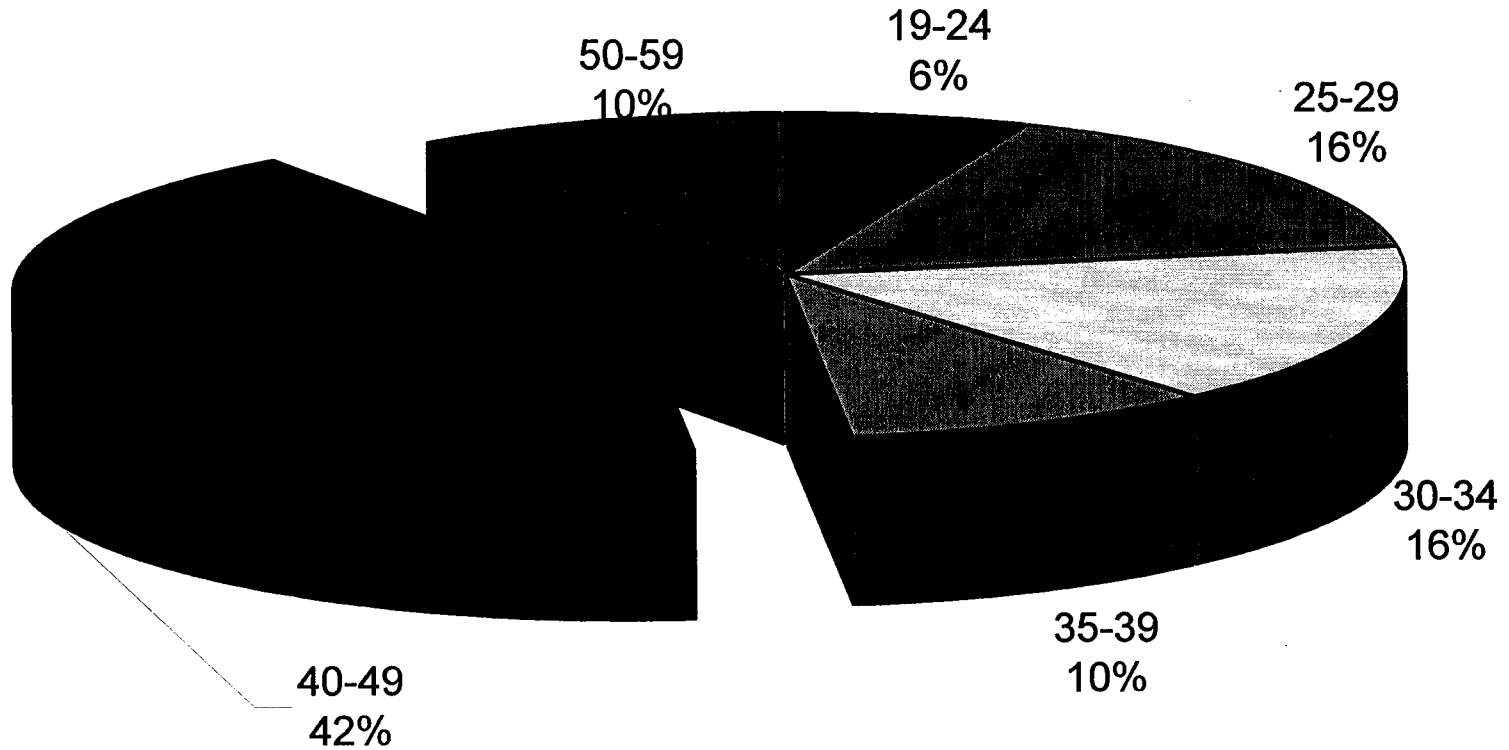
Date of Report: 28 July 2000

List of WPP Placements

Appendix 1

<i>Placement</i>		<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Finish Date</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>Phone</i>
Beauty Assistant	Esprit	02/06/00		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administration Assistant	Whinhall Resource Centre	13/06/00	04/08/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Classroom Assistant		05/05/00	23/06/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Classroom Assistant		05/05/00	23/06/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Classroom Assistant	Piccolo Pre-School Nursery			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Classroom Assistant		05/05/00	23/06/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Design Assistant	Kay Devine (Design/Shop)	11/04/00	30/05/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administration Assistant		05/05/00		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taxation Assistant	Centre 1			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Classroom Assistant		05/05/00	23/06/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administration Assistant	KRG Precision	28/04/00		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
School Secretary	Our Lady's High School			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administration Assistant	Summerlee Training Resou	09/06/00		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administration Assistant	Summerlee Training Resou	22/03/00	18/05/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Park Ranger Assistant	Plains Countryside Park			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Classroom Assistant		05/05/00	23/06/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Park Ranger Assistant	Plains Countryside Park			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Catering Assistant	Boozy Rouge	09/03/00	27/04/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Classroom Assistant		05/05/00	23/06/00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Administration Assistant	CALEDON Engineering			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WOMENS PLACEMENT PROGRAMME STATISTICS - AGE



Womens Placement Programme Employment Statistics

