

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT**

To: Education Committee	Subject Post Of Mobility Officer: Visual Impairment Network Team
From: Director of Education	
Date: 4 May 2001	
Ref: MON/RM/RM	

Purpose of Report

This report provides members with information regarding the proposed provision of a Mobility Officer within the Visual Impairment Network Team.

Recommendations

The education committee is asked to:

- (i) approve the establishment of a Mobility Officer at grade AP3/4 within the Visual Impairment Network Team.
- (ii) approve the establishment of a 0.5 FTE post of clerical assistant at grade GS1/2
- (iii) instruct the director of education to undertake the necessary administrative steps regarding appointment to the agreed post.
- (iv) to refer the paper to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee for consideration and approval



Members wishing further information about this report should contact:

Michael O'Neill, Director of Education on 01236-812336
Dan Sweeney, Head of Quality Development on 01236-812291

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Post Of Mobility Officer: Visual Impairment Network Team

Report by Director

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Since the beginning of the new council in 1996, mobility training for North Lanarkshire pupils with visual impairments has been delivered through the services of a mobility training officer employed by Glasgow City Council but part funded by North Lanarkshire.
- 1.2 Due to the retiral of the current postholder on the grounds of ill health it is no longer possible to access this service through our neighbouring authority.
- 1.3 In addition, the increasingly complex needs of pupils with visual impairments suggest that demand for this service within North Lanarkshire Council is sufficient to warrant the employment of a mobility training officer solely for the use of those pupils within the authority who require this input and support.

2. PROPOSAL

- 2.1 It is proposed that a post of mobility training officer be established to improve the council's services for visually impaired pupils.
- 2.2 The post would be based with the Visual Impairment Network Team located in Knowetop Primary and would be managed by the relevant Network Team manager.
- 2.3 The postholder would provide mobility training and advice to North Lanarkshire pupils with visual impairments and to the schools in which they are taught.
- 2.4 The post will be established as an AP3/4 grade, current costs for which is £22,900.
- 2.5 Clerical support of 0.5 FTE at GS1/2 level will be provided at a cost of £6,500
- 2.6 50% of the cost of this post can be met from the existing monies allocated for the previous joint arrangement with Glasgow City Council. The balance will be achieved through social inclusion monies within the Excellence Fund.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The education committee is asked to:

- (ii) approve the establishment of a Mobility Officer at grade AP3/4 within the Visual Impairment Network Team.
- (ii) approve the establishment of a 0.5 FTE post of clerical assistant at grade GS 1/2
- (v) instruct the director of education to undertake the necessary administrative steps regarding appointment to the agreed post.
- (vi) to refer the paper to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee for consideration and approval

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Neale". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a distinct 'J'.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JOB TITLE: Mobility Officer
DEPARTMENT: Education
RESPONSIBLE TO: Network Manager (Visual Impairment Support Service)
GRADE: AP3/4 **DATE:** May 2001

Main Functions:

- work as part of a multidisciplinary team to support pupils with a visual impairment
- provide mobility and independent living skills programmes to pupils aged 0-9 in their school and local communities across North Lanarkshire
- contribute to North Lanarkshire's commitment to inclusion and raising achievement
- contribute to the raising awareness of the needs of pupils with a visual impairment

Job activities:

- undertake assessment of mobility needs including mobility audits
- provide individual pupil support
- provide advice to support development of skills
- develop enabling environments
- liaise with parents, school staff and other professionals
- collaborate with VI team to continue development of the mobility curriculum
- prepare reports as required
- participate in working groups as required
- undertake any other duties as required