

To: AIRDRIE AREA COMMITTEE	Subject: GOOD NEWS
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	
Date: 10 February 2003	Ref: LMCM/JP

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of a number of 'good news' stories within the Department.

2. GOOD NEWS ITEMS

2.1 General

2.1.1 Street Smart Launch

Graffiti artists' days are numbered the launch of Community Services' new "hit squads" which will target vandalism throughout the authority area.

The service forms the cornerstone of the flagship £5 million initiative to tackle blights on the local landscape such as vandalism, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles, dog-fouling and graffiti.

The Minister for Finance and Public Services, Andy Kerr MSP. officially launched the initiative on 31 January at Strathclyde Country Park's Watersports Centre.

2.2 Creative Services Section

2.2.1 Youth Arts Festival

200 young people will experience the Festival for free, thanks to a cash grant of £2,500 from the North Lanarkshire SIP and £500 from Cumbernauld Theatre. The teen tickets, which normally cost £15, will give free access to almost every event and workshop in the festival.

Parent Support Workers and community support services staff based in the @home centre, the Pivot Centre, the Carbrain after-school club and Clyde Valley High School helped select the youngsters taking part in the scheme.

2.2.2 NLAA receives cash boost

NORTH Lanarkshire Arts Association (NLAA) has received a £10,000 cash boost to put on its *Community Open Arts Exhibition*. The grant was awarded by European Year of Disabled People, a government-funded initiative overseen by the Department for Work and Pensions.

The theme of the exhibition is inclusion, with a particular emphasis on close working and co-operation with disabled groups and disabled people in North Lanarkshire. Around £6,000 of the grant will fund the post for an exhibition organiser - and the Association is currently seeking applications from candidates with disabilities.

## **2.3 Libraries & Information Section**

### **2.3.1 Fans queue for evening with Terry Pratchett**

Fantasy comic novelist Terry Pratchett dropped into North Lanarkshire in the first week of February to meet and greet his legions of fans.

The event saw Terry make three stops in his whistle-stop tour of the authority area. The final session was standing room only as tickets had been allocated several weeks in advance.

### **2.3.2 Award boost from New Opportunities Fund (NOF)**

The section has secured £98,542 from NOF's CALL fund to develop a Community Lifelong Learning Centre within Airdrie Library.

Airdrie Library already has newly enhanced PC provision thanks to the People's Network project, which is also backed by NOF.

This new money allows the service to be enhanced further, meaning the centre will provide staff to support individuals aged 16 plus, on a one to one basis. The online study packages available will range from spreadsheets and databases to First Aid and Languages. The centre is due to open in May 2003.

### **2.3.3 COSLA Quality Award**

The Community Learning Hub has been awarded a Silver award at the 2003 CoSLA Quality Awards on 17 February.

The Community Learning Hub was one of three projects shortlisted for the Gold Award for Innovative use of Technology. Although not the final winner, the Silver Award still represents a major achievement for the project which was only launched in June 2002.

## **2.4 Museums & Heritage Section**

### **2.4.1 Heritage Lottery post filled**

Claire Leonard has been appointed to the new post of Education Outreach Officer, thanks to a Heritage Lottery grant of £77,600. Claire will be tasked with creating community projects on family, social and industrial history themes within the areas of Airdrie, Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and surrounding villages.

### **2.4.2 New Records Archivist appointed**

The Council has appointed Gordon Brown to the post of Archivist (Records). Based at the Lenziemill Archives Centre, Gordon has responsibility for liaising with all departments and ensuring that Council records are correctly created and managed. This will ensure full compliance with legislation such as the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Acts, as well as ensuring that all records can be digitised in the future.

## 2.5 Sport & Recreation Section

### 2.5.1 Tri-Golf tees off in March

The Tri-Golf programme designed to introduce North Lanarkshire youngsters to the sport tees off in early March.

The project will target P3-P5 children in 12 primary schools. Four days have been set aside for the sessions, which will be led by fully-trained "Tri-Golf activators". Each school group will receive six sessions of coaching and will be taught a range of basic golfing-related skills.

At the end of their sessions, each area [namely, Cumbernauld & Kilsyth, Monklands and Motherwell] will host an *area festival* where the children will participate in a range of games demonstrating the skills they have mastered. Each *festival* will be held in a local sports centre with around 100 children in the morning session and the same number in the afternoon.

The project is a partnership between Community Services, the Golf Foundation and Education's Active Primary School Sports Co-ordinators. Funding has also been allocated to the project by the Scottish Executive.

## 2.6 Community Support Services Section

### 2.6.1 Positive Parents Conference

Community Support Services Section joined forces with the Education Department to hold the second Positive Parents Conference at Shyberry Stadium, Airdrie on 23 January. Following opening speeches, a series of workshops were held, aimed at supporting parents and carers in their roles as carers of children and young people.

### 2.6.2 Delegates make themselves @home

The @home youth centre in Airdrie was the venue for a research visit by officials and elected members from East Lothian Council. They spoke to Community Services staff who had worked on a successful pilot youth project, with a view to emulating it in their authority.

Staff told the visiting delegation, led by East Lothian Council leader Norman Murray, that the youth centre attracts up to 60 young people every evening, and was a success in no small part due to its drop-in café and wide range of activities - from web access designed to help with homework to an area for computer games.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.



There are no background papers relevant to this report