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| To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE | Subject: WOMEN'S PLACEMENT PROGRAMME – MONITORING REPORT | |
| From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT | | |
| Date: 3 April 2002 | Ref: IH/EH/REP842 | |

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report is submitted to the Planning and Environment Committee in order to advise members on the operation of the Women's Placement Programme (WPP) which was delivered during the period October 2000 – March 2002.

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) was 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 was 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 was available to assist participants, and the programme was provided in friendly non-threatening surroundings. Participants who successfully complete the programme are awarded the National Examination Board Introductory Award in Management.

3.2 The programme was strategically focused in that the participants were resident within the following geographical areas;

- Motherwell North SIP
- South Coatbridge SIP
- NLC Regeneration Areas

3.3 A successful application was made to the European Social Fund (ESF) Objective 3 programme for funding to deliver four Womens Placement Programmes between October 2000 and March 2002. The total project costs for the delivery and management of these four programmes amounts to £74009.

3.4 The project costs comprised of partnership funding as identified in Table 1 below.

Table 1

| Organisation | Amount |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| South Coatbridge SIP | £5,000 |
| Motherwell North SIP | £5,000 |
| North Lanarkshire Council | £30,705 |
| ESF Objective 3 | £33,304 |
| TOTAL | £74,009 |

3.5 Due to a low take of beneficiary childcare, travel and subsistence costs the programme was delivered at a total cost of £70784.

4. WPP October 2000- March 2002.

4.1 During the above period, four Womens Placement Programmes were completed at Kirkshaws Neighbourhood Centre Coatbridge; Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre Bellshill; the Safety Zone Project in Bargeddie and Castlehill Primary School in Gowkthrapple.

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 covers topics such as “The World of Work”, “Strategies for Success”, Information Technology and Job search.

4.3 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 the end of the programme participants were invited to complete an evaluation report and participate in a further one hour one to one session which was arranged to discuss more detailed feedback with an opportunity for sign-posting.

4.4 **Programme Outputs** – the outputs of the programme were as follows :

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of participants | 42 |
| People who entered employment | 17 |
| People who entered further education or training | 10 |
| People who gained a full qualification | 28 |
| People who gained a part qualification | 4 |

4.5 **Future Programmes** – the programme is currently being evaluated to consider the potential of accessing other funding sources and widening the programme to include men and young people.

4.6 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Planning and Environment Committee :-

- (i) Note the contents of this report detailing the successful operation and delivery of the Women’s Placement Programme for the period October 2000 to March 2002.



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For further information please contact Ian Hunter, Economic Development Officer, Tel: 01236 616547.
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