

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

<b>To:</b> Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub Committee	<b>Subject:</b> Match Funding for European Social Fund Projects.
<b>From:</b> Chief Executive	
<b>Date:</b> 14 January 1997	<b>Ref:</b> CE/012/003/012D

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Lone Parent Training & Employment Initiative in Social care is operated by One Plus, an independent voluntary organisation managed by an elected committee, the majority of whom are lone parents.
- 1.2 The programme was first implemented in 1995 in recognition of the emerging labour market potential in the community care field. A flexible range of employment opportunities is available which allows lone parents to develop a career, whilst balancing their family commitments.
- 1.3 A total number of fifteen clients participated in the programme during 1997 for a 40 week period, during which time they covered a mix of theoretical, practical and work experience in a caring environment, which leads to the award of a S.V.Q. (Scottish Vocational Qualification) Level II in Social Care. All trainees receive a training allowance, travel expenses and childcare payments tailored to their particular requirements.
- 1.4 The Council agreed to support this initiative in April 1996 and June 1997.
- 1.5 There are obviously links to the New Deal Lone Parents Initiative and if approved, close monitoring of the One Plus programme will be required to allow maximum opportunities to develop.

**2.0 Funding**

- 2.1 A request has been received from One Plus for support to the project for 1998. The group have submitted a European Social Fund application through the S.C.V.O. (Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations) and the indications are that the project will be successful in their application for 1998.
- 2.2 The table outlines the package of funding required:

Project	ESF	LDA	One Plus	North Lanarkshire	Total Cost
Training In Social Care	£44,306	£21,000	£12,652	£20,500	£98,458

### 3.0 **Evaluation**

- 3.1 The evaluation carried out in 1997 would indicate that the programme has a very high level of success in encouraging lone parents to take advantage of training and employment opportunities in this potential growth market sector. Of the fifteen trainees who completed the course, five gained full time employment, three opted for further education/training and one trainee is continuing with her workplace provider on a voluntary basis. Six trainees were unable to continue with the programme due to family/personal difficulties.
- 3.2 The budget for the match funding is held within the Chief Executive's Department Payments to Agencies and Other Bodies.

### 4.0 **Recommendation:**

The Sub Committee is requested to

- (a) approve North Lanarkshire Council's contribution of £20,500 as detailed;
- (b) bring forward mid term evaluation to a future Sub Committee; and
- (b) otherwise note the contents of this report.

  
**Chief Executive**