

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject:  Motherwell Community Health Project : Health For All
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 25 November 1997	
REPORT AUTHOR: George McNally	
REF: GMcI/JMCF	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Social Work Committee of the funding position of the Health For All Project and to recommend that the Council discontinue funding at the end of the current arrangement, December 1997.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Motherwell Health for All was formerly an Urban Aid Project, which terminated in June 1996. It continues to operate on the basis of tripartite financing, involving a partnership of North Lanarkshire Council, Motherwell College and Lanarkshire Health Board.
- 2.2 The Social Work Committee at its meeting on 19 August 97, agreed to a funding contribution of no more than £31,817 to enable the project to continue to 31 December 1997. The Council contribution was obtained from DSS transfer monies within the Social Work budget.
- 2.3 In addition to the decision on funding, the Social Work Committee requested a further report on the future of the project by Officers from the Social Work Department and the Lanarkshire Health Board.

**3. VIEWS OF THE PARTNER AGENCIES**

- 3.1 In examining the future requirements of the Health for All Project, the Social Work Department has consulted with the co-funders to obtain their views on the continuation or otherwise of the project.

- 3.2** Lanarkshire Health Board's Health Promotion staff consider that Health for All has been able to demonstrate value in relation to the objectives which the project was set by the management committee. However, they acknowledge there is a lack of a strategic focus to the project in the context of health and community development. They have also expressed doubt as to whether the Social Work Department is the most appropriate location for a project of this nature, given its orientation to health promotion activities.
- 3.3** Motherwell College whilst supporting the ethos of Health for All, have questioned the physical site of the project which is accommodated within the college premises. The college have stated that in the current economic climate they would not be in a position to make a direct financial contribution to the future funding of the project, nor are they able to increase the services which are provided in kind. College officials advise that there was no provision in their budget when the decision was taken to extend the operation of the project and currently the services which are provided have to be taken from a departmental budget.
- 3.4** The Social Work Department recognises the contribution which the Health for All project has made since its inception in 1993 and acknowledges the importance of preventative social and health care activities. However at a time when there is severe competition for scarce resources, the department cannot justifiably advocate that these activities are accorded a higher priority than direct community care services.
- 3.5** Further investment in the Health for All project would also be inconsistent with previous decisions, whereby, a number of similar departmental community health projects had to close as part of savings required for the 1997/98 budget.

#### **4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** There are two Social Work Department employees based within the project. The Resource Worker has been in post since September 1996 and the Project Leader since December 1996. Both individuals are on temporary contracts which expire at 31 December 1997. The individuals concerned have access to the Council's internal vacancy list.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** Since Urban Programme funding terminated in June 1996 funding for the project has been found on a non-recurring basis from the Social Work Department's community care budget. The decision to terminate funding would permit the Department to fund direct community care services required to support people at home.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

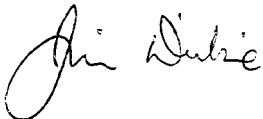
- 6.1** The Health For All project has operated since 1993 with funding being provided through the Urban Aid programme and latterly with co-funding from the Council, Motherwell College and Lanarkshire Health Board.

6.2 Whilst the project has fulfilled a role in the field of preventative social and health care work. The funding of such activity has to be carefully considered alongside the need for expenditure on community care services. In the current climate of high demand for services from a range of individuals with community care needs, the Social Work Department can not justify continued financial support for the Health for All project.

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Committee is asked to:

- ( i) approve the terms of this report
- ( ii) to advise Motherwell College and Lanarkshire Health Board of the position.
- (iii) to acknowledge the work undertaken by the project over the previous four years.
- ( iv) Remit the report to Personnel Services Committee for its interest.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**11 November 1997**

*For further information on this report please contact, Principal Officer (Strategy) (TEL: 01698 332063)*