

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUSING COMMITTEE OF 28 JANUARY  
1998

## MOTHERWELL AND DISTRICT WOMEN'S AID - REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATION FOR REFUGE

10. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 12 January 1998 by the Director of Housing regarding a request from Motherwell and District Women's Aid for the Council to provide accommodation to create a refuge, along with one-off capital grant to cover setting up costs (1) outlining the background to and the need for a refuge within the South District area; (2) intimating that initial discussions had taken place between the District Housing Manager (South) and Women's Aid to progress this request; (3) indicating that the Social Work Department had received a request for revenue funding for the refuge, and (4) advising that a further meeting had been arranged with Motherwell District Women's Aid to develop the detailed aspects of a proposal.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the creation of a Women's Aid refuge in the South District be approved in principle;
- (2) that a report be submitted to a future meeting detailing the full proposal including the consideration of any financial implications;
- (3) that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the progress of a North Lanarkshire wide strategy for Women's Aid, and
- (4) that the report be referred to the Social Work Committee for its information.

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

To: <b>HOUSING COMMITTEE</b>		Subject:  <b>MOTHERWELL AND DISTRICT WOMAN'S AID</b>
From: <b>DIRECTOR OF HOUSING</b>		
Date: <b>12 January 1997</b>	Ref: <b>RS/TG/3</b>	

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of a request from Motherwell and District Woman's Aid for accommodation to create a refuge, along with a one off capital grant to cover setting up costs.

**2. Background**

- 2.1. Motherwell and District Woman's Aid has been providing an advisory and support service for nearly eight years. During that time a number of clients have been referred to refuge accommodation outwith the former Motherwell District area.
- 2.2. The Council currently provide the organisation with office accommodation within the Housing Neighbourhood Office block at 97 Kylemore Crescent, Forgewood, and this is let on an annual basis at nominal rent.
- 2.3. A request has been received (Appendix 1) for accommodation to create a refuge along with financial assistance in setting it up. Initial discussions have taken place between the District Housing Manager (South) and Woman's Aid to progress this request. At the same time the Social Work Department has received a request for revenue funding for the refuge.
- 2.4. A further meeting is being arranged involving Housing, Social Work and Woman's Aid to develop the detailed aspects of a proposal.
- 2.5. As there are refuges in Cumbernauld and Coatbridge it is considered appropriate to develop an authority wide strategy for Woman's Aid.

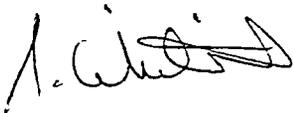
**3. Recommendation**

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Committee agree
- a) in principle to the creation of a refuge in the South District.

- b) that a further report be prepared detailing the full proposal for creation of a refuge including the consideration of any financial implications of such a proposal.
- c) that Committee notes the intention to develop a North Lanarkshire wide strategy for Woman's Aid which will be the subject of future reports to Committee.
- d) that the report be referred to the Social Work Committee for its information.

4. **Background Papers**

- 4.1. Available in Housing.



*G. Whitefield*  
*Director of Housing*



North Lanarkshire Council.  
Civic Centre,  
MOTHERWELL.  
ML1  
28th. November 1997

To whom it may concern.

Motherwell District Women's Aid has been in existence for nearly eight years and during that time have provided a much needed service to the women and children in the Motherwell District ( from Viewpark to Shotts ) who are, or have been suffering Domestic Violence at the hands and feet of a partner or ex-partner.

Many of these women approach us hoping we can provide them with a safe place of refuge to escape this violence. We can do this, but have to send the women out-with the district. This obviously is not ideal as it presents further problems such as isolation from family and friends, children's schooling, Doctors, clinics etc.

Therefore, we would ask that North Lanarkshire Council provides suitable accommodation which could be adapted to the requirements needed for a refuge, to enable these women and children-a Life without Fear.

If successful in our request, we would hope to acquire adequate housing to provide at least six refuge spaces. This would be two - four apartment dwellings side by side as experience in other Women's Aid refuges has shown that semi or terraced dwellings may cause problems with existing neighbours. Abused women still carry a stigma.

The refuge should also be in a centrally located area to enable the women and children access to amenities, schools, public transport. In fact, to allow them as normal a life as possible.

We would expect from the council a one-off Capital Sum grant for the refurbishment and safety requirements for shared dwellings.

A refuge in the Motherwell District will have far reaching benefits and one step towards ending the social disease of Domestic Violence.

We trust you will look favourably on this request.

Yours faithfully,

*Sandra Jager*

For and on behalf of Motherwell District Women's Aid.