

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: PRINCESS ROYAL TRUST FOR CARERS - CONTINUATION OF FUNDING
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 30 March 1999	
REPORT AUTHOR: Clare Murray	
REF: CM/AG	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of a review of the work of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers - Lanarkshire Carers Centre and to seek approval for continuation of funding.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In August 1998 Committee approved the continuation of funding for the Princess Royal Trust for Carers. The three funding partners (the Council together with South Lanarkshire Council and Lanarkshire Health Board) each contribute £18,750 per year.

3 REVIEW OF THE LANARKSHIRE CARERS CENTRE

- 3.1 The Princess Royal Trust for Carers opened the Lanarkshire Carers Centre in Hamilton, in March 1996 and have had over 3,000 carers "drop in" since then. The carers centre offers a confidential information and advice service over 6 days; carers support groups, which in North Lanarkshire are located in Coatbridge, Airdrie, Cumbernauld, Kilsyth, Motherwell and Bellshill; a care mail service; a care talk service; and a carers emergency card scheme. They have also produced a Carers Information Pack.

- 3.2 The Princess Royal Trust carried out a survey of carers in November 1998 and provided a detailed report on their findings. The survey provides details on the definition of carers and the range and extent of their caring role. It also provides information on how carers see the work of the Lanarkshire Carers Centre.

- 3.3 Some of the key issues identified by the carers were the following:

- ◆ carers feel that little account is taken of their views
- ◆ lack of appropriate respite facilities
- ◆ lack of transport
- ◆ financial worries
- ◆ improved consultation and information

- 3.4 In order to address Departmental concerns about the low profile of the organisation in North Lanarkshire the Trust has attracted funds of £16,000 over 2 years from Warburtons Bakeries and £8,000 from the Small Grants Initiative for the Motherwell North Priority Partnership. This will enable the Trust to operate from shop front premises in Bellshill to maximise public access and deliver additional direct support to carers throughout the Priority Partnership Area.
- 3.5 The Trust recently hosted a Stakeholders Conference as part of the overall evaluation of its work. The first stage of this process identified a number of issues and potential future areas of work. It has been agreed that the Trust, in conjunction with the Stakeholders, will bring forward proposals to prioritise activity in response to carers needs.
- 3.6 The Trust has also expressed an interest in supporting the development of a Carers Strategy for North Lanarkshire.
- 3.7 The Lanarkshire Carers centre staff have also been closely involved in the national campaign to bring about the early identification of carers through GP's. A pilot is currently being evaluated in Airdrie.
- 3.8 There are a number of organisations offering support to carers throughout North Lanarkshire and the Trust intends to approach these organisations with a view to ensuring closer collaboration and more effective joint working in the future.
- 3.9 The Social Work Department will continue to be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the work of the Princess Royal Trust in North Lanarkshire.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The Princess Royal Trust for Cares - Lanarkshire Carers Centre has been providing a valuable service to carers throughout Lanarkshire since 1996. It has now also addressed the need for a physical location in North Lanarkshire to enhance and develop the service to carers living in this authority.
- 4.2 The organisation has been open in its approach to ensuring that it continues to improve the quality of its services to carers.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) approve the continuation of funding for the Princess Royal Trust for Carers - Lanarkshire Carers Centre of £18,750 per year and;
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

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**Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
9th March 1999**

For further information on this report please contact , Duncan Mackay, Principal Officer (Planning & Development) (TEL: 01698 332072)