

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: Allocation of Funding for Millennium Social Work Projects
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 23 November 1999	
REPORT AUTHOR: George McNally	
REF: JD/GMCI/JMCF	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Social Work Committee of the allocation of funds to the Social Work Department to mark the Millennium.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An Officers Working Group was established earlier this year to present a framework of the Council's Corporate Millennium Strategy.
- 2.2 As part of the above strategy a programme of events has been approved by the Community Services Committee which includes proposals submitted by the Social Work Department. It should be noted that the money required to fund the proposals is a one off payment and will be non recurring.

3 PROJECT PROPOSALS

- 3.1 In considering how best to mark the Millennium, the Social Work Department took the view that the occasion should be used to recognise the efforts of carers who contribute significantly to the needs of disabled people in our community. This is particularly true of the role and responsibilities of young people who undertake a caring function.
- 3.2 The Department has secured £30,000 funding to mark the contribution which carers make to society. It was considered appropriate to consult with the carers organisations which are active in North Lanarkshire to get their views on how they would like to see this money best spent bearing in mind that the sum involved has to be spent directly for the benefit of the carers concerned. Once the consultation process has been completed the views of the relevant organisations will be reported to a future meeting of the Social Work Committee.

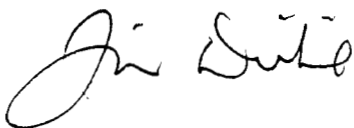
- 3.3 The next group of people considered appropriate by the Department was those who are resident in the Council's residential accommodation. It is proposed that each of the 17 residential units be allocated £1000, to celebrate the Millennium. Rather than prescribe how the money should be utilised, it has again been agreed to consult with the residents on how the money can be best spent. This could be for example on a party in the residential unit or to purchase something which would be used and appreciated by all the residents.
- 3.4 It was recognised that there are other people in residential accommodation which is operated by the private and voluntary sector. Therefore a bid was made and secured for up to a maximum of £500 for each of the voluntary and private sector establishments on the basis that the organisation operating the establishment put up match funding of up to £500. Again the money has to be spent for the benefit of the residents and the residents will require to be consulted on how the money should be utilised for their benefit.
- 3.5 The final proposal submitted by the Department was to establish a Shopmobility scheme for North Lanarkshire, providing a range of powered scooters and wheelchairs to enable disabled people to access town centre shopping areas. Funding of £92,000 has been made available for this purpose.
- 3.6 A charitable organisation will be established to organise and run the scheme, and to raise funding for subsequent costs. Consideration to be given to referring issues relating to future sustainability to Social Inclusion committee.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The Social Work Department is delighted that in the distribution of funds to celebrate the Millennium that the opportunity has been taken to recognise the efforts of carers. The position of people in residential accommodation has been taken into account, and the needs of the disabled are being met by a donation which will help the Shopmobility project become established.
- 4.2 It is important to engage in consultation with the relevant groups prior to finalising any expenditure proposals.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 (i) Committee is requested to note the terms of the report.
- (ii) Remit the report to Social Inclusion Committee for its interest in relation to the Shopmobility scheme.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
October 1999

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