

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: Strategy for Carers in Scotland
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 25 January 2000	
REPORT AUTHOR: Clare Murray	
REF: CM/DM	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee about the Strategy for Carers in Scotland produced by the Scottish Executive and to seek approval to fund the development of a Carers Network in North Lanarkshire.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following the introduction of a national strategy for carers launched by central government in February this year, the Scottish Executive introduced a Strategy for Carers in Scotland on 24 November 1999. This Strategy is part of the Executive's Programme For Government and its central aim is to introduce a package of measures which support the many carers in Scotland who look after sick, disabled and vulnerable relatives and friends.

3 STRATEGY FOR CARERS IN SCOTLAND

- 3.1 The Strategy was produced following consultation with carers organisations and identifies a number of priorities for action:

- ◆ the promotion of new and more flexible services for carers, including respite care, with national standards for such services
- ◆ monitoring by the Scottish Executive of the performance of health and social services in supporting carers
- ◆ the introduction of carers legislation to allow carers' needs to be met more directly
- ◆ the provision of better and more targeted information for carers
- ◆ attention to the specific needs of young carers.

- 3.2 The Scottish Executive expect the Strategy to lead to an increase in the provision of services to carers and further guidance on monitoring arrangements will be issued by the Executive in due course. The Executive also announced that within the 2001 settlement there was £10 million of GAE identified for carers services including respite. £5.1 million of this money was recurring expenditure from earlier years whilst £4.9 million was additional monies included in the current year's settlement. In future this expenditure will be specifically identified and local carers groups will be advised of resources available to each authority.
- 3.3 It should be noted that the £4.9 million in the current financial year was a "notional" allocation for this and other purposes, and not additional funding. It is understood that the figure for 2000-01 will be new monies, of which North Lanarkshire will receive a proportionate share.
- 3.4 The Strategy also highlights the specific needs of carers from ethnic minority communities, rural areas and those who care for people with learning disabilities which should be addressed by local authorities in implementing this Strategy and also identifies further action that will be required in addressing the needs of young carers and carers in employment.
- 3.5 The strategy recognises the role that health services play in supporting carers and the Scottish Executive will announce in the next Planning and Priorities Guidance for the NHS that Health Boards and Trusts must give appropriate recognition to their needs.

4 IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND HEALTH SERVICES

- 4.1 In future local authorities will require to report in detail, through joint community care plans and annual reviews, on the use of the resources allocated to them for carers services.
- 4.2 These Plans will require to be accompanied by a letter from local carers groups confirming that consultation has taken place with them on the planning and development of services. Further guidance from the Scottish Executive on how this should be undertaken will follow. Local authorities must also consult with Health Boards on spending plans for carers services.

5 DEVELOPMENT OF A NORTH LANARKSHIRE CARERS NETWORK

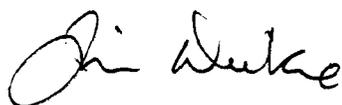
- 5.1 A number of organisations exist within North Lanarkshire to provide information and practical support to carers, ie the Princess Royal Trust for Carers, Carers Liaison and Support Project, the Young Carers Project, the Reach Out Project and Lanarkshire Community Care Forum. These organisations have been involved in early discussions around the development of a carers strategy for North Lanarkshire.

- 5.2 Within these discussions carers have identified the need for a North Lanarkshire Carers Network which can provide a voice for carers in the planning and delivery of services to meet their needs. This Network requires to be an independent organisation to properly reflect the needs of carers and one which would ensure that all providers of services were able to consult with a representative carers organisation.
- 5.3 Funding of £42,000 start up costs to develop and establish a North Lanarkshire Carers Network has been identified through the Section 10 budget. Following discussions with carers groups it is proposed that this is allocated to the Princess Royal Trust for Carers to carry out, in partnership with other interested groups and organisations, the necessary preparatory work to create a Carers Network. Future levels of funding will be contingent upon competing demands made on the Section 10 budget.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) to approve the allocation of Section 10 monies for the purpose of establishing the carers network and;
- (ii) to otherwise note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
5 January 2000

For further information on this report please contact Jim Nisbet, Principal Officer (Community Care) (TEL: 01698 332051)