

To: COMMUNITY SERVICES (COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT) SUB COMMITTEE	Subject: DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FUND
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	
Date: 9 FEBRUARY 2000	Ref: JMcG/BP/MC

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise the sub committee of the Scottish Executive Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund and seek its approval for the submission of a bid.
- 1.2. On 27 October 1999 the Scottish Executive Ministers announced the establishment of the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund. During the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 additional funding of £1.5 million will be made available to develop practical, effective and efficient multi agency arrangements at a local level to help victims of domestic abuse. Subsequently the Scottish Executive, Justice Department invited local authorities to co-ordinate applications. Additionally a further £2 million over 2 years has been allocated from Scottish Homes to provide more refuge places as well as more permanent accommodation for victims.

2. APPLICATION GUIDANCE

- 2.1. The overall aim of the fund is to assist in the development of local measures which meet the following goals:
 - Prevention - to prevent, remove or diminish the risk of abuse by various means, ranging from promoting social attitudinal change to creating physical and other barriers to the commission of violent acts;
 - Protection - to protect victims for repeat victimisation or harassment by perpetrators;
 - Provision - to provide adequate services to deal with consequences of abuse against women and children to help them both to rebuild their lives.

The fund is intended to improve current circumstances and should not displace established arrangements.

- 2.2. The government through the fund aims to help deliver the workplan of the Scottish Partnership on Domestic Abuse, a partnership involving representatives from the Scottish Executive, local authorities, police, judiciary, health service, prison service and voluntary organisations. The remit of the partnership is to develop a strategy on domestic violence which will recommend minimum levels of service for women experiencing domestic abuse. The fund therefore sets out to encourage and support the establishment of effective multi-agency working .

2.3 Applications to the Fund are invited from multi agency groupings which can demonstrate the direct involvement of non-statutory groups. Grants will not exceed £50,000 and require to be match funded. Bids can be made for either 1 or 2 years and are required to be submitted not later than 3 March 2000. It is expected that the local authority or other public agency will be the accounting body.

3. BID PROPOSAL

3.1. Members of the sub committee will be aware of the North Lanarkshire Community Safety Partnership, a strategic partnership involving representatives from North Lanarkshire Council, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire Brigade, Lanarkshire Health Board, British Transport Police, Procurator Fiscal, North Lanarkshire CCTV Ltd and RoSPA. The Partnership has identified the tackling of domestic abuse as a key priority and established a multi agency working group to develop an appropriate strategy. The working group is currently developing a framework for a North Lanarkshire strategy focussing on prevention, protection and provision. It has considered the detail of the Domestic Abuse Development Fund and is of the view that it presents an opportunity to support the Community Safety Partnership in the development of a multi agency strategy to tackle violence against women.

3.2. It is proposed that a bid be made to establish a dedicated post which would progress the development of action plans to develop the overall strategy. Essentially the post holder would be responsible for:

- (i) the production and distribution of publicity and information material.
- (ii) awareness raising among agencies
- (iii) developing referral arrangements and information sharing
- (iv) developing a framework for monitoring the level and quality of service provision and organising joint training.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Costings associated with the bid proposed are detailed below and the bid to the fund would therefore be for £23,000 in 2000-2001 and £27,750 years 2001-2002. Discussions are already ongoing amongst the partners to identify possible sources of match funding.

Estimated Total Cost	2000/2001	2001/2002
Co-ordinator (incl. On costs travel etc)	20,000 (8 months)	30,000
Admin Officer (20 hours)	6,000 (8 months)	9,000
Office costs	2,500	2,500
PC and equipment	1,500	
Training and Publicity	16,000	16,000
Total	46,000	55,500

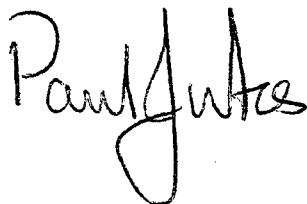
5. SCOTTISH HOMES FUNDING

5.1. Discussions are currently ongoing with Scottish Homes with a view to making a bid for refuge provision. Funding through the Domestic Abuse Development Fund for refuge provision attracts 100% funding and therefore no resource implication for the council. This funding is channelled through Scottish Homes.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. Members of the sub-committee are asked to:

- (i) note the contents of the report and, subject to the identification of match funding, approve the submission of a bid for funding to the Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund.
- (ii) refer the report to the housing and property services, social work, social inclusion and personnel services committees for their information and interest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".