

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee	Subject: Strategy for Carers in Scotland
FROM: Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE: 6 June 2000	
REPORT AUTHOR: Duncan Mackay	
REF: CM/DM	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the use of funds allocated for services to carers in North Lanarkshire.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scottish Executive introduced a Strategy for Carers in Scotland on 24 November 1999. This was reported to Social Work Committee on 25 January 2000.
- 2.2 The report advised of the allocation of monies within the 2000/2001 local government settlement specifically for services to carers and required local authorities to agree the use of these monies with local carers groups, providing accompanying letters from carers to this effect in future joint community care plans.

3 SPENDING PLANS IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE

- 3.1 The Scottish Executive announced that within the 2000/2001 settlement there was £10 million of Grant Aided Expenditure (GAE) identified for carers services including respite. £5.1 million of this money was recurring expenditure from earlier years whilst £4.9 million was new money. North Lanarkshire's share of £10 million was identified as £611,000.

- 3.2 It is important to note that £5.1 million in 1999/2000 was described as a "notional" allocation for services to carers and had not previously been identified as such. The increase in expenditure by the Department on respite care for people with learning disabilities and children/young people with special needs more than accounts for this "notional" amount. Over the past 3 years the budget allocation for this purpose has risen from £268,000 to £805,000 and actual spending was significantly higher due to high levels of demand for respite care. By the end of 1999/2000 this had resulted in:

- ◆ Numbers of adults receiving residential respite care increasing from 138 to 231 (+67%)

- ◆ Numbers of children receiving residential respite care increasing from 47 to 113 (+140%)
 - ◆ Numbers of episodes of residential respite care for adults increasing from 362 to 927 (+156%)
 - ◆ Numbers of episodes of residential respite care for children increasing from 131 to 589 (+350%)
- 3.3 The Department also allocated an additional £60,000 to develop the shared care family based respite scheme.
- 3.4 As previously stated agreement with carers groups is required for the 2000/01 allocation, North Lanarkshire's share of which is £305,500. This has been the subject of discussions with a number of organisations representing carers, including 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, as well as individual carers, have been involved in the ongoing development of a local strategy for carers and in plans for the establishment of a Carers Network for North Lanarkshire, funds for which were allocated at January Committee.
- 3.5 A meeting was held on 9 May with representatives of carers organisations and the following use of 2000/2001 monies was agreed to be brought forward to Committee:
- ◆ £24,000 to National Childrens Homes (NCH) to appoint a Young Carers Development Worker for one year
 - ◆ £24,000 to Partners in Play to appoint a Playscheme Resource Worker for children with special needs for one year
 - ◆ £32,500 for the Social Work Department to develop Shared Care Plus (family based respite care for adults and children with disabilities) including the appointment of a Resource Worker for one year
 - ◆ £25,000 to purchase training for carers in moving and handling, management of difficult behaviour and other needs as identified
 - ◆ £95,000 to add to the Social Work Department budget for respite care; this was the amount of budget overspend in 1999/2000 and allows external purchasing to continue at previous levels
 - ◆ £105,000 to be allocated equally to 6 Social Work Department Area Teams to be used on a non-recurring basis in the development of services to carers.

- 3.6 These therefore commit £210,500 of the total allocated monies for non-recurring purposes, enabling fuller consideration of the best ways to deploy resources in future years. The carers working group wish to receive regular monitoring reports on use of the money to inform judgements in future years about how it should be used. The use of funds to match the Department's overspend on respite care was the subject of much debate and it was agreed that views concerning the overall adequacy of resource allocation would be expressed in the required correspondence that will accompany the next Community Care Plan Review.
- 3.7 It is recognised that, although represented at carers meetings, proposals were not brought forward by groups with an interest in services for older people and people with dementia. Using the majority of funds for non-recurring purposes will allow a more rounded view to be taken about an appropriate balance between different care group interests.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) approve the use of monies to provide services to carers as set out at paragraph 3.5;
- (ii) remit this report to Personnel Committee for its consideration and;
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
May
2000

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