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| To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE     |            | Subject: SPENDING PLANS FOR SERVICE TO CARERS |
| From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK |            |   |
| Date: 25 OCT 2001             | Ref: DM/DM |   |

## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report updates Committee on the use of funds allocated for services to carers in North Lanarkshire 2001/2002 and seeks approval for additional proposals to create further direct services to carers.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. As part of the National Strategy for Carers, the Scottish Executive made provision in each of the last two local government settlements for funds to provide services to carers. The total allocation for North Lanarkshire is £627,500. The use of these monies is required to be agreed by carers groups, with written evidence to this effect to accompany the issue of Joint Community Care Plans to the Scottish Executive.
- 2.2. In order to ensure agreement by carers and carers organisations, all proposals for funding have been presented to the Carers Strategy Group which has invited, received and considered requests for funding. This group, which has met regularly since 1999, has representation from carers, carers organisations, Health and Social Work and was responsible for the production of the North Lanarkshire Strategy for Carers.
- 2.3. Committee has previously approved the use of monies for 2000/2001 and the bulk of these monies for 2001/2002. Some proposals were still to be considered further by carers and progress on these is contained in this report.

## 3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. Of the total funds available for services to carers, there remained some further matters to bring forward to Committee, which are set out below.
- 3.2. The sum of £155,625 to employ Carers Support Workers and part time administrative support was approved at the 24 May Committee. Carers strongly supported the principle of this approach, modelled on the successful CLASP project in Wishaw, which entailed creating equivalent arrangements in each of the 5 Social Work area team locations. Further debate focused on whether the Social Work Department should employ these staff or whether a local voluntary organisation should do so. These discussions have resulted in agreement that the Princess Royal Trust for Carers should become the employing body and that funds of up to this amount be paid to that organisation.

- 3.3. £25,000 to develop quality information for carers. Decisions about the host organisation for these monies have yet to be made and will also be advised in a future report.
- 3.4. £5,000 to Lanarkshire Community Care Forum to support carer involvement in the strategic planning and consultation process, including transport and respite costs.
- 3.5. £4,550 to Lanarkshire Association for Mental Health to allow a full time worker to be employed to develop respite services for people with mental health problems.
- 3.6. £2,892 to bridge a funding shortfall for a Training Co-ordinator at the Princess Royal Trust for Carers.
- 3.7. This leaves a balance of £16,082 for consideration by carers at future meetings of the Carers Strategy Group, the outcome of which will be included in a future report to Committee.
- 3.8. Furthermore, the time taken to determine the use of some of these monies has resulted in considerable slippage in the budget. Carers have agreed that they wish to transfer £100,000 from this source to PHEW to assist the funding of the new respite centre for adults and children with learning disabilities.

#### **4. FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. Funding for carers has been included in the Social Work budget. The proposals are consistent with the National Strategy for Carers, the North Lanarkshire Carers Strategy and the Joint Community Care Plan.
- 4.2. There are no personnel implications for the Council at this stage.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1. Committee is asked to:
  - (i) approve the use of monies to support carers as set out in section 3; and
  - (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**5 September 2001**

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