

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

<b>To:</b> HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		<b>Subject:</b> ACCESS Project - Funding
<b>From:</b> DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND PROPERTY SERVICES		
<b>Date:</b> 14 December 2001	<b>Ref:</b> TMcK/PH	

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of the ACCESS Project, including the submission of a bid to the New Futures Fund for a further 3 years funding.

**2. Background**

2.1 The ACCESS Project is funded by Scottish Enterprise through the New Futures Fund and provides support to young people within the Council's supported accommodation units to help them access and sustain employment, training and further education opportunities. The Project was granted funding of £77,000 for 2 years from April 1999 and received a further extension until April 2002. The project employs 2 full time members of staff (1 x Project Co-ordinator - AP4 and 1 x Employment Counsellor - AP2/3) along with clerical support (1 x GS2) and sessional workers. It is managed jointly by Housing & Property Services; Social Work and Community Services Departments along with Lanarkshire Careers Service.

2.2 The project provides individual support to the young people aimed at:

- Enhancing basic skills – literacy, numeracy
- Increasing self confidence and self esteem
- Providing basic IT training
- Promoting job and training opportunities
- Providing practical assistance to help access opportunities e.g. equipment, transport expenses, clothing

2.3 The project has worked with 53 young people and has recorded 37 positive outcomes, including young people taking up places in further education; training; employment or volunteering. The project has also helped young people develop their life skills to a point where they can sustain their own tenancies and is an important part of the range of support services available to young, vulnerable people.

**3. Proposals**

3.1 A bid has been submitted to the New Futures fund for a further 3 years funding from April 2002. The outcome of the bid should be known in January. If successful it is proposed to extend the contracts of existing staff and increase the number of Employment Counsellors to two full time posts (Grade AP2/3).

3.2 The project is an important part of the range of service provision available to young people. Therefore it is hoped to continue to develop the project and further integrate it within the service delivery framework being developed as part of the Homelessness Strategy and secure long - term funding for the project.

**4. Recommendations**

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee

- a) Note the contents of this report and the successful work of the ACCESS Project.
- b) Note that a bid for further New Futures Funding has been submitted and if successful, approve the extension of the existing staff contracts up to April 2005 and recruitment of an additional Employment Counsellor.
- c) Note that a report on the future funding and development of the project will be reported to a future Committee.
- d) Remit this report to Social Work Committee, Community Services Committee and P & R (Personnel) Sub Committee for consideration

**5. Background Information**

5.1 Background Information is available from the Housing & Property Services Department.



Thomas McKenzie  
Director of Housing & Property Services