

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: SECTION 10 GRANTS	
From: JIM DICKIE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 22 AUGUST 2002	Ref: JD/GF	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee on current applications for funding and issues relating to the proposed review of Section 10 projects and processes.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Social Work Committee received and agreed a report in February 2002, which outlined recommendations on applications for Section 10 funding for the current financial year. Committee also agreed a review of Section 10 projects and processes. Since the last committee there has been one further application for funding which has been assessed and one previously unsuccessful application which the Committee agreed to review in June 2002 if funds remained available. The Department has also been made aware of and been invited to participate in a Council wide "Value For Money" grants working group, which has been established through the Chief Executive's Department. The remit and purpose of this working group has implications for the Department's own review of Section 10 grants.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Social Work Committee agreed in February 2002 that the Department undertake a structured review of the Section 10 process to ensure:-
- Value for money is being maintained
 - Service outcomes are established and measured
 - Services are not being unduly duplicated
 - Contracts or Service Level Agreements are applied where appropriate
- 3.2 Since proposing the review of Section 10 grants the Department has been made aware of a separate but linked initiative, which has been established by the Chief Executive. Following the completion of a Value for Money Study undertaken by Internal Audit on Grants to Community Groups and Voluntary Organisations, which was part of the Council's Audit Plan for 2001/2002, a Council wide working group has been established to examine the implications for all Council grant schemes, including Section 10 grants, and how its recommendations can be implemented.

- 3.3 It is clear that the scope of this working group will involve examination of most of the issues identified in the Departments own review of Section 10 grants. The Chief Executive's Department, to avoid duplication of effort, has asked Social Work to delay the review of Section 10 processes until the Value for Money Working Group has reported in the autumn. The Department will be fully involved in the work of this group. There will be a number of complimentary issues which the Department will continue to progress including the development of Service Level Agreements or contracts for projects with funding at or above £10,000 and any other organisation deemed appropriate.
- 3.4 There are two applications currently seeking Section 10 funds. Firstly further consideration of an application from Craigneuk (Wishaw) Benefits Group for £24,587, which was initially refused in February 2002. The Committee agreed to reconsider this group's application in light of the proposed review of section 10 projects and processes and should funding be available. Given that the review of Section 10 funded organisations has not yet been completed, it proposed that in the first instance the grant to Craigneuk be limited to £9,212. This will cover the organisation financially for a three month period from 1 September to 30 November 2002. It is anticipated the review will be completed in this timescale. Secondly Beulah – a furniture recycling project based in Wishaw but operating predominantly in North Lanarkshire, which is seeking funding of £8,000. A brief project description and assessment recommendation for both projects is contained in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.5 In February 2002 Committee also approved grants totalling £74,610 to Monklands, Motherwell and District and North Lanarkshire Womens Aid groups. With the introduction of Transitional Housing Benefit (THB) these organisations have been assessed and will now receive substantial amounts of funding (which is in excess of their Section 10 grant) from the Council to pay for the service. As the organisations will shortly be in a parallel funding stream the Committee may wish to re-appraise the Section 10 funding being given to these organisations in the light of the other funding which they will receive later this year.

4 FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Council wide "Value for Money" Working Group established by the Chief Executive is likely to have a number of implications for Section 10 grants. Some of these include :
- very practical issues such as rationalising application processes
 - monitoring and financial procedures
 - establishing a common data base
- 4.2 The Departmental budget for Section 10 grants for the period 2002/03 is £429,000. The Committee previously committed expenditure of £360,551 leaving a balance of £68,449 for new applications this financial year.
- 4.3 If the current applications for funding from Craigneuk Benefits Group and the Beulah Furniture Initiative totalling £32,587 are approved, this will leave a balance of £35,862 for new projects.
- 4.4 The replacement of Section 10 funding with Transitional Housing Benefit for the three Women's Aid Groups in North Lanarkshire in relation to their provision of supported accommodation will now provide substantial core funding and development opportunities

for these groups without the requirement for Section 10 funding to meet their running costs subject to future Committee approval. This will allow some of the Section 10 funding awarded to these organisations this year to be re-allocated for new initiatives.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is requested to:

- i To note the establishment of the Council wide grants Value for Money Working Group and agree to delay the Department's review of Section 10 processes.
- ii Agree to the recommendations for the provision of Section 10 funding for Craigneuk Benefits Group and the Beulah Furniture Initiative as outlined in appendix 1.
- iii Agree to review the grant allocated to Monklands, Motherwell and District and North Lanarkshire Womens Aid groups in light of the alternative funding now currently being made available to them through Transitional Housing Benefit.
- iv To request the Director of Social Work to submit a further report for consideration of the outcomes of the Working Group and the implications for the Departments own review of Section 10 processes at a future meeting of the Social Work Committee.
- v To otherwise note the report



Jim Dickie

Director of Social Work

7th May 2002

For further information on this report please contact George McInally, Manager Social Work Strategy (Tel: 01698 332555)

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON CURRENT APPLICATIONS

Project	Purpose of Grant Requested	Assessment and Recommendation
<p>Craigneuk (Wishaw) Benefits Group – the project provides one to one benefits advice, including home visits to residents of the Craigneuk area.</p>	<p>(£24,587) To meet basic running costs of project from the end of their lottery funding in July through to 31st March 2003</p>	<p>This is a well established and successful benefits advice project which has been funded by the lottery until July 2002 (although there funding will actually take them on to 31st August). Without alternative funding the project will not be able to be sustained. <i>Given that the review of Section 10 funded organisations has not yet been completed It is recommended to award this project a grant of £9,212 to cover running costs for the project from 1st September until the 30th November 2002.</i></p>
<p>Beulah (North Lanarkshire Furniture Recycling Initiative) – providing furniture on a referral basis to families predominantly in North Lanarkshire</p>	<p>(£8,000) A contribution to overall running costs of over £70,000 (in particular the maintenance and operational costs of the project’s vehicle)</p>	<p>This relatively new project provides assistance to a considerable number of families and individuals within the North Lanarkshire area, who otherwise might end up in debt if this service was not available. <i>It is recommended that the initiative is awarded a grant of £8,000.</i></p>