

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 22 AUGUST 2002	Ref: MD/DM	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to create part-time, temporary posts as part of a successful bid to the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund which has recently been approved by North Lanarkshire Partnership. It also seeks approval to share the sponsorship of a national conference on learning disability in 2003.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. An application for Better Neighbourhood Services Fund monies was made to promote the social inclusion of people with learning disabilities in North Airdrie and South Wishaw. The sum of £39,450 was approved by the North Lanarkshire Partnership for this purpose over 2 years. The bid includes provision for 2 part time Project Workers.

**3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1. North Lanarkshire Council Social Work Department purchase or provide a growing range of individualised services for people with disabilities. Many more use day centre based services. Very often they are spending their time solely with groups of other people with a similar disability and paid staff. Others have difficulty accessing ordinary community facilities because of physical or attitudinal barriers. For this reason people with disabilities are among the most socially excluded in our society.
- 3.2. The Community Connections approach sets out to tackle this by supporting people with disabilities to use facilities within their own communities in safe and inclusive ways. It is anticipated that around 50 people will benefit directly from the scheme, which will be overseen by a community-wide advisory group.
- 3.3. North Lanarkshire Council has achieved growing recognition nationally for the way it has developed services to people with learning disabilities. In May 2002 the Council was invited to host a conference on supported employment with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. In March 2003 the Council has been approached by Pavilion, a national training organisation, to co-sponsor an event entitled "Learning Disability Today" to be held in Glasgow.
- 3.4. The cost of the co-sponsorship is £5,000 which includes the opportunity to run a seminar, 25 free places, an exhibition stand, logo exposure in advertising campaigns for the event and other benefits.

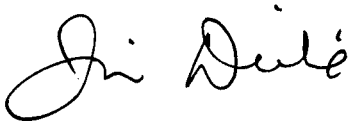
#### **4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. Approval is sought for the establishment of 2 part time (18.5 hours) Project Workers at Grade RW16. The total cost of this is £10,174 (part-year for 2002/03) and £20,350 for 2003/04. These costs will be met by Better Neighbourhood Services Fund monies.
- 4.2. The cost of co-sponsoring the national conference can be met through existing community care budgets.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) approve the proposals contained within this report; and
- (ii) remit the report to Policy and Resources (Personnel Sub) Committee for their consideration.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**8 July 2002**

*For further information on this report please contact D Mackay, Manager, Community Care Partnerships  
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