

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE STRATEGY FOR CARERS 2001-2004	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 24 October 2002	Ref: GS/ST	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To advise Committee of the publication of the Annual Review of the North Lanarkshire Carers Strategy 2001-2004, and to seek approval of proposals to create further direct services to carers.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Scottish Executive produced a Strategy for Carers in Scotland in November 1999, which was reported to Committee in January 2000. This document outlined a range of measures for ensuring that carers are provided with information and support.
- 2.2. In March 2001, Committee approved the North Lanarkshire Strategy for Carers 2001- 2004. This was produced by representatives of carers groups and organisations working with the Council and Health - the Carers Strategy Group. Following publication of the Strategy in May 2001, this group became known as the Carers Strategy Implementation Group.
- 2.3. As part of the National Strategy for Carers, the Scottish Executive made funds available to support the Strategy. The total allocation for North Lanarkshire is currently £627,500. The use of these monies requires to be agreed with carers/carers groups, with written evidence to this effect to accompany the issue of Joint Community Care Plans to the Scottish Executive.
- 2.4. To ensure agreement by carers and carers organisations, all proposals for funding have been presented to the Carers Strategy Implementation Group.
- 2.5. Committee has previously approved the use of monies for 2001/2002. This report contains proposals for uses in 2002/2003, as considered and recommended by the Carers Strategy Implementation Group.

3. ANNUAL REVIEW OF NORTH LANARKSHIRE STRATEGY

- 3.1. This annual review has been produced in partnership with carers and carers organisations via the work of the Carers Strategy Implementation Group.
- 3.2. Significant progress has been made in implementing the Action Plan outlined in the Strategy, and this Review shows what has been achieved and what still needs to be done.
- 3.3. Developments include the formation of the carers network - *North Lanarkshire Carers Together*, the introduction of Carer Support Workers in Area Teams, enhanced short break opportunities, a range of training opportunities for carers and a support service for carers at Monklands Hospital.

- 3.4. Small grants have also been provided to a range of carers groups and organisations to allow them to provide support to carers.

4. SPENDING INFORMATION 2002/2003

- 4.1 The Carers Strategy Implementation have so far considered and endorsed proposals for expenditure on new developments this year. The details are as follows:

ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Hillview Special Needs Playscheme	Transport costs for summer playscheme for disabled children	£1,480
Enable, Bellshill District	Contribution to running costs Social Club for people with learning disabilities	£2,500
Shotts and District Volunteer Addiction Group	Steps to Excellence Training Course for Carers	£1,500
Alderlee Carers Support Group	Start up funding	£400
CLASP Carers Group	Steps to Excellence Course for Carers	£1,750
HOPE	Start up costs for this organisation set up to support carers of children and adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorder	£1,380
Princess Royal Trust, Lanarkshire Carers Centre	Training programme for carers 2002/2003	£15,000

- 4.2 The Carers Strategy Implementation Group will consider proposals for use of the remaining funds and further reports will be submitted to Committee in due course.

5. FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. Three thousand copies of the annual review have been printed and distributed. Costs have been met from within the existing Departmental Community Care Budget.
- 5.3. There are no personnel implications for the Council at this stage.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of the annual review of the Strategy for Carers 2001 – 2004;
- (ii) approve the use of monies to support carers as set out in section 4; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report.



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10 September 2002

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager, Community Care (Adult Services) (TEL: 01698 332177)