

To: SOCIALWORK COMMITTEE		Subject: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 19 DECEMBER 2002	Ref: JD/GMcI/GF	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To inform Social Work Committee of a request by the National Association of Supported Employment, to have their Annual Conference for 2003 in North Lanarkshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The National Association of Supported Employment (NASE) was formed 10 years ago to assist its membership in the promotion and development of work opportunities for people with disabilities. The organisation which is UK wide has approximately 120 member organisations drawn from Local Authorities, charities and supported employment workshops, who as members of the Government backed "Workstep" Programme, are actively seeking to provide meaningful and gainful supported employment.
- 2.2. The Social Work Department has received a request from the National Executive Committee of NASE to provide endorsement and sponsorship of the organisation's annual conference 2003, which is intended to be held towards the end of May 2003 during "the Designated Year of the Disabled". No firm date has yet been set.
- 2.3. The bid to hold the annual conference in North Lanarkshire has been made by the Scottish based members of the organisation and is in recognition of the major achievements carried out by North Lanarkshire Council in the field of supported employment. One of the locally based members of the organisation is Beltane. This will be the first time that the conference will have been held in Scotland.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. The Conference which is intended to attract up to 150 delegates from all over the UK and possibly further afield will offer the opportunity for the Council at a national event to showcase the work that is being undertaken within North Lanarkshire in the field of supported employment.
- 3.2. The organisation is seeking endorsement and sponsorship of the event. Some financial support has already been secured from the Department of Work and Pensions. It is proposed that the Social Work Department make a financial contribution to the conference costs.
- 3.3. Endorsement and sponsorship of the event will help promote the positive contribution which the Council makes in this field.

4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. A contribution of up to a maximum of £5,000 towards meeting the cost of the conference is proposed. This funding can be met from existing Social Work budgets.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to

- (i) agree to the Conference taking place in North Lanarkshire with sponsorship from the Social Work Department.
- (ii) agree to a contribution of up to a maximum of £5,000 towards meeting the cost of the Conference.
- (iii) request the Director of Social Work to provide further reports to Committee in respect of the proposed Conference.
- (iv) otherwise note the content of the report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
26 November 2002

*For further information on this report please contact Gus Ferguson, Service Co-ordinator Strategy
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