

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: DEVELOPMENT OF ADVOCACY IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 5 June 2003	Ref: JD/RM/NMcD	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for funding to support the development of independent advocacy in North Lanarkshire.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In January 2001 the Scottish Executive published "Independent Advocacy: A Guide For Commissioners". Joint planning partners were required to submit detailed proposals for the development of independent advocacy for all care groups. Advocacy takes different forms but all are concerned with independent representation of the views of people who may need assistance to do so arising from age, disability or circumstance.
- 2.2. After wide consultation, joint planning partners submitted a Lanarkshire Advocacy Plan to the Scottish Executive. Partners included the Lanarkshire Advocacy Forum (LAF), a constituted voluntary organisation established to support the development of advocacy that is supported by officers from Health and Social Work.

## 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Part of the recommendation of the Advocacy Plan was the funding of a post to support implementation arrangements and the work of Lanarkshire Advocacy Forum. The Advocacy Safeguarders Agency (a national body funded by the Scottish Executive) commented that creating a Development Worker was an imaginative and welcome response to promoting independent advocacy in Lanarkshire. It was originally proposed that costs would be shared three ways among NHS Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Council and North Lanarkshire Council.
- 3.2 Subsequently South Lanarkshire Council decided not to proceed along these lines, though it remains the intention of Lanarkshire Health Board and this Council to do so. In line with the different approaches being taken towards developing advocacy in the two Local Authority areas, LAF will consider, at its annual general meeting on 12 June, how best to accommodate revised arrangements.

3.3 It is proposed that North Lanarkshire Council with NHS Lanarkshire Board would jointly fund Lanarkshire Advocacy Forum to employ a Development Worker who would work wholly in the North Lanarkshire Area. The post would be funded for a three year period and progress reviewed annually. The main functions of the post will be:

- Assessing the need for independent advocacy throughout North Lanarkshire, with particular reference to the responsibilities that existing and new legislation will bring to the statutory agencies.
- Co-ordinating the planning and implementation of independent advocacy in North Lanarkshire as directed by the planning partners.
- Supporting the work of Lanarkshire Advocacy Forum in North Lanarkshire.

#### **4 FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The original proposal envisaged a three way split between the two Councils and NHS Lanarkshire with each agency contributing £20,000 per annum. This included administrative support and property costs. The modified proposal would see other arrangements made for administrative support and accommodation. NHS Lanarkshire Board remains committed to investing the sum of £20,000, £11,000 of which would part fund the advocacy worker post in North Lanarkshire, while £9,000 would go to developing advocacy within South Lanarkshire. The Social Work Department remains committed to the same level of funding (£20,000) to allow the proposal to proceed.

4.2 Identified costs will be met from the Social Work community care budget for 2003/04.

4.3 There are no personnel implications for the Council as the employing body would be Lanarkshire Advocacy Forum.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) agree funding for the development of advocacy; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**13 May 2003**

*For further information on this report please contact Robert Miller, Development Manager TEL: (01698 332069)*