

AGENDA ITEM No. 7

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: FUNDING FOR MAJOR ADAPTATION TO OWNER OCCUPIED PROPERTY IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
Date: 5 JUNE 2003	Ref: JmcE/JMcE

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek funding approval for the adaptation of the home of the sister of Ms AC who has a learning disability. The adaptation comprising of a separate entrance, ground floor level bedroom, bathroom and toilet facilities and access to a the existing kitchen, would allow Ms AC to move from the care of her parents to having a supported living package with input to her care from her sister. Due to increasing frailty and poor health, Ms AC's parents are unable to continue to care for their daughter.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. Ms AC is a 41 year old woman who has a learning disability and needs a high level of support to manage activities of daily living. She has mood swings and a recurrent bowel condition.
- 2.2. Committee are asked to note that as Ms AC does not have impairment of physical mobility, the Housing Department's Grants Section does not have any facility to make provision towards the cost of this adaptation. The Social Work Department is required, subject to a community care assessment including occupational therapy assessment to consider funding an adaptation which would enable Ms AC to be supported to continue living in the community. Where the cost of the adaptation exceeds £10,000, there is an arrangement approved at Social Work Committee in August 1998, whereby the Director of Administration may secure Standard Securities. This may be registered in the title deeds of the property specifying that repayment of the grant shall be required, on a sliding scale, if the property is disposed of within 10 years.

## 3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. Prior to the increasing frailty of her parents and to an increase in Ms AC's level of care needs associated with her mood swings, she lived with her parents. In recent years it has become apparent that this arrangement can no longer be sustained. The viability of the currently proposed care arrangements has been assessed. It has been concluded that with the support of a supported living package, supplemented by care inputs from her sister, Ms AC will be able to make a successful transition from living with her parents to living at the home of her sister and her sister's husband, following adaptation. The present proposal is consistent with national and Departmental community care objectives, enabling Ms AC to live in the community with an appropriate balance between independence and support from her family, and avoiding the need to consider community care objectives.

- 3.2. Ms AC does not have her own financial resources and is unable to contribute to the significant costs involved in the adaptation. Ms AC's sister and brother-in-law have given a commitment that in the event of the costs exceeding the upper limit envisaged in the present proposal, they will accept liability for those additional costs.
- 3.3. It is proposed that funding be secured to meet the costs of the adaptation of the home of Ms AC's sister and brother-in-law, comprising a separate entrance, ground floor bedroom and bathroom facility with access to existing kitchen facilities. Community care assessment including occupational therapy assessment, allied to assessment by Design Services, has confirmed that the plans as proposed are the minimum level of renovation necessary to facilitate Ms AC's permanent transition from the care of her parents. The total cost of the extension is estimated at approximately £30,000 plus VAT, giving a VAT inclusive figure of £35,250 plus architectural fees estimated at approximately £2,500. Approval is therefore sought for funding which would be met from existing community care budgets.

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) approve funding to facilitate adaptation of the property concerned; and
- (ii) request the Director of Administration to explore the option of securing Standard Securities; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the Report.



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

*For further information on this report please contact Ronnie Paul, Head of Social Work Resources  
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