

TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		SUBJECT: SECTION 10 GRANT FUNDING: PROPOSED EXTENSION OF NORTH LANARKSHIRE DISABILITY FORUM PREMISES IN MOTHERWELL
FROM: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
DATE: 5 JUNE 2003	REF: ST/LMCK	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To seek approval by Committee for Section 10 grant funding for the extension of the North Lanarkshire Disability Forum's existing premises at Civic Square, Motherwell.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The North Lanarkshire Disability Forum (formerly the Motherwell Disability Forum) was established in 1991. It aims to promote the human rights of people with disability in respect of information, education, choice, independent lifestyle and self-expression. Through paid staff (1.5 posts) and volunteers, the Forum provides advice, information, advocacy and support to people with disabilities. It also organises conferences and campaigns to promote the needs / issues of people with disabilities.
- 2.2. The Forum recently changed its name from the Motherwell Disability Forum to the North Lanarkshire Disability Forum in recognition of the work which the Forum undertakes across North Lanarkshire and due to the fact that no other similar forum operates in North Lanarkshire.
- 2.3. The Forum has a formal constitution, which details its powers, membership, management arrangements and membership rights. The Management Committee meets on a monthly basis and at present the wider membership consists of approximately 140 people.
- 2.4. The Forum has received support from the Community Services Department in respect of organisational development issues. Following recent discussions, the Forum has also agreed to work with a nominated Social Work Officer on progressing organisational objectives in partnership with the Council.
- 2.5. The Forum has been successful in obtaining grant funding from a range of sources, including the Community Grant and Lloyds Grants. The Annual Report for 2001/02 outlined that the organisation had received grants totalling £36,505.07. This included a North Lanarkshire Council Section 10 grant of £2000 to assist with administration costs.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. The Forum has an office base at 42 Civic Square, which is owned by the Council. Due to the extension of the Forum's activities, the Management Committee has requested an additional Section 10 grant to expand into vacant premises at 41 Civic Square. The new premises will provide accommodation for the Advocacy Project Worker to meet with and train volunteer Advocacy Workers. The accommodation will also provide a small meetings room for confidential, individual interviews.
- 3.2. The proposed additional premises have been vacant for two years and require some minor adaptations / improvements and redecoration. The non-recurring costs of the work total £7150.
- 3.3. The recurring costs are being assessed at present and will be subject of further consideration in due course in line with Council policy and current arrangements.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) Approve the funding of £7150 set out at section 3.2 for the financial year, 2003 / 04.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
22nd May 2003

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