

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: NORTH LANARKSHIRE STRATEGY FOR CARERS: PROGRESS REPORT ON USE OF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS TO SUPPORT CARERS
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 15 JANUARY 2004	Ref: GS	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To seek approval of proposals for the use of development funds allocated to support carers in North Lanarkshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. To support the Strategy for Carers in Scotland, the Scottish Executive made provision in local government settlements for funds to provide support services to carers. The total allocation for North Lanarkshire is £627,500. This amount is included in the Social Work budget and is available to be utilised on an annual basis. The Scottish Executive requires the use of these monies to be agreed by carers, with written evidence to this effect reported to them. In recognition of the need to continue to expand support to carers Committee agreed, in August 2003, to enhance this budget by £40,000 from community care monies.
- 2.2. In order to ensure agreement by carers and carers organisations, all proposals for funding are first considered by a sub-group of the Carers Strategy Implementation Group and recommendations reported back. This group has met regularly since 1999 and has representation from carers, carers' organisations, Health and Social Work. The group was responsible for the production of the North Lanarkshire Strategy for Carers.

3. PROPOSALS/CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. Committee received a summary of the use of expenditure for recurring purposes in October 2003. This amounted to £440,833. In addition, a report was provided on non-recurring expenditure amounting to £26,938.
- 3.2. New proposals for funding for consideration by Committee are summarised below, in Table 1.

Table 1

New Proposals for Funding 2003/2004

ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Watch Us Grow, Cumbernauld	Ramblers Club and Craft Classes for people with learning disabilities providing support to carers through short break opportunities. Funding will pay for transport costs and sessional staff costs.	£5,546
North Lanarkshire Carers Together (NLCT)	Production of 3 Newsletters during the year.	£6,000
North Lanarkshire Carers Together (NLCT)	Promotional and Display Equipment	£3,000
Carers Liaison and Support Project – Wishaw Area Team	Project Assistant(CLASP) to support the work of the Co-ordinator. Funding proposed on a 3 year basis, subject to review. The post to be graded at AP1. It is unlikely that the post will be recruited to until March 2004, so the proposal requires 1 month funding this year and full year costs of £18,000 from next years budget.	£1,500
North Lanarkshire Carers Together (NLCT)	Funding for 3 part- time Carer Link Workers to distribute and promote information for carers. NLCT will promote this as an employment opportunity for carers and former carers.	£23,000
TOTAL		£39,046

3.4 The balance of £159,873 that remains available this year will be considered by the Carers Strategy Implementation Group over the coming months. Since reporting to Committee in October 2003, a number of key areas for development have emerged through discussion with carers and other stakeholders. These include:

- support to carers of people with drug and alcohol misuse, including drug awareness training for carers and supporting Family Support Services.
- identifying and supporting black and ethnic minority carers.
- advocacy for carers in their own right.
- continuation of funding for the Carer Co-ordinator at Monklands Hospital. An evaluation on this service has been commissioned and will report at the end of January 2004. Early indications are that this will be a very favourable report, and based on this consideration may be given to establishing a similar post for Wishaw General Hospital.
- additional support for carers of people with dementia.

These proposals have not yet been developed or costed, but indicate a range of areas for possible development. Furthermore, consultation currently underway for the next Community Care Plan is providing information from carers that will identify possible unmet need. New proposals will be the subject of a further report to Committee.

4. FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. The funding available for developments of support services for carers is included in the Social Work budget.

4.2. The use of the budget is consistent with the national Strategy for Carers, the North Lanarkshire Strategy for Carers and the Council's Community Care Plan.

- 4.3. The establishment of a post of Project Assistant (CLASP) API in Wishaw Area Team will increase the staff compliment in the team by one full-time member, but funding will be found from the allocation to support carers, within the Social Work budget.
- 4.4. There are no further personnel implications at this stage, as funding is targeted at independent sector providers, who will be responsible for the employment of staff.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of this report.
- (ii) approve the use of monies to support carers as set out in Table 1
- (iii) remit the report to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee to establish a post of Project Assistant (CLASP) API.
- (iv) request the Director to provide future progress reports in relation to service development and expenditure.



PP **Jim Dickie**
Director of Social Work
19 November 2003

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