

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: NORTH LANARKSHIRE STRATEGY FOR CARERS : UPDATE ON USE OF FUNDS TO SUPPORT CARERS
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 11 MARCH 2004	Ref: GS/	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report updates Committee on the use of funds allocated for support to 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.
- 2.2. In recognition of the need to continue to expand support to carers, Committee agreed (August 2003) to enhance this budget by £40,000 from community care monies. As a consequence, the total development budget for carers amounts to £667,500.
- 2.3. In order to ensure agreement by carers and carers organisations, all proposals for funding are considered by the Carers Strategy Implementation Group, prior to submission to Committee for approval. 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. Funding proposals for funding to be considered by Committee are outlined on next page in Table 1.

Table 1 New Proposals for Funding for Carers Development 2003-2004

ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	COMMENT
Alzheimer Scotland	Funding to cover additional costs associated with Carer Liaison Project.	£4,300	Organisation has had no inflationary uplift in funding since 2001 and have incurred additional costs related to both the success of the project and the costs for increments in salary.
Parkinsons Group, North Lanarkshire	Support and respite service for carers.	£16,245	Organisation provides service for service users and carers, this funding is to be used for transport to enable carers to weekly support meetings and activities, provide complimentary therapies and to pay for the services of a part-time support worker.
Parkinsons Group, Motherwell	Support for carers through therapy, befriending, drop in service.	£15,444	Complimentary therapy programme for carers, social and educational activities for carers at drop-in, develop befriending scheme for isolated carers and employ member of staff on sessional basis to develop this service.
Social Work Department	Funding to enable carers to take a break in their own right	£18,000	Additional top up funding for each area team to the short break budget, to be used this year.
CLASP Project , Wishaw Area Team	Outings for Carer Groups	£2,000	
Enable Cumbernauld	Respite for carers by funding social activities for young people with learning disabilities.	£3,000	
National Childrens Homes Young Carers Project	Holiday Fund	£7,000	
Social Work Department	Respite care – People with Learning Disabilities	£100,000	

3.2. As reported to Committee in January, a number of key areas for development in support for carers have emerged. These include:

- support to carers of people with drug and alcohol misuse, including drug awareness 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.

A new Strategy for Carers 2004-2007 is being developed which will take into account these areas and other proposals required to ensure the continuing development of support services for carers.

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. There are no personnel implications at this stage.

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) request the Director to provide future progress reports in relation to service development and expenditure.



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Director of Social Work
04 February 2004

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