

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: ESTABLISHMENT OF A NORTH LANARKSHIRE USERS AND CARERS FORUM
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 11 MARCH 2004	Ref: dm/NLCUCF	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to reinvest funding in the establishment of a North Lanarkshire Users and Carers Forum.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In January 2004 a report to Committee advised of notice given to terminate funding to Lanarkshire Community Care Forum followed prolonged difficulties; and of plans by North Lanarkshire members of the Forum to establish an organisation solely for North Lanarkshire.
- 2.2. Lanarkshire Community Care Forum was funded on a tripartite basis by North Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire, though North Lanarkshire were the single largest contributors. Both Councils have indicated that they will terminate funding beyond 31 March 2004. NHS Lanarkshire have indicated that they will allocate their investment on a proportionate basis to new arrangements that emerged in both Council areas. This means 55% of their funding will be available for the new North Lanarkshire organisation.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. On 11 February 2004 Lanarkshire Community Care Forum held an Emergency General Meeting and voted to dissolve the existing organisation by an overwhelming majority.

3.2. An inaugural meeting of the North Lanarkshire Users and Carers Forum has been scheduled for 2nd March 2004. At this point the organisation will be formally constituted, will seek charitable status and is expected to conclude its search for premises in North Lanarkshire shortly thereafter. The organisation will provide an independent voice for service users and carers in North Lanarkshire and be an important partner with the Council in development of strategies and services in the authority.

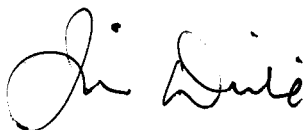
4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. The existing level of Council funding to Lanarkshire Community Care Forum is £50,885. There is an uncommitted non-recurring amount of approximately £13,000 that was previously allocated to the Forum to carry out various consultative exercises. It is proposed to transfer all recurring and non-recurring monies to the new organisation with effect from 1 April 2004 to provide core funding and, in the case of non-recurring monies, assist with start up costs such as premises and equipment.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) agree the allocation of £50,885 to North Lanarkshire Users and Carers Forum for 2004/5; and
- (ii) agree allocation of the balance of non-recurring monies to assist with start up costs; and
- (iii) seek a report to a future Committee with fully costed budget for the organisation concerned.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
27 November 2003

*For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Head of Social Work Development
TEL: (01698 332004)*