

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: SECTION 10 GRANTS	
From: JIM DICKIE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 26 AUGUST 2004	Ref: JD/GF	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Committee on current applications for funding and other issues relating to the management of Section 10 grants.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Social Work Committee received and agreed a report in March 2004, which outlined recommendations on applications for Section 10 support during 2004/05. A total of 57 projects received funding, committing £361,200.00 from this year's Section 10 Budget of £430,653.00 leaving a balance of £69,453.00 to fund any new applications received during the year.
- 2.2 The criteria applied to funding new applications have been previously endorsed by Committee and are detailed below:-
- **Performance/Quality, Value for Money:** consideration of quality services which represent good value for the Section 10 monies provided to the organisations concerned.
 - **Direct Services:** recognising the need to support voluntary organisations who provide direct services to individuals and care groups which would otherwise require the Social Work Department to provide substitute services.
 - **Provision of Local Services:** continued support to local organisations who provide worthwhile local services which benefit individuals and local communities.
 - **Continuity:** providing ongoing support to organisations which are currently funded through Section 10.
 - **Scope for Growth:** recognising the opportunities for creating new and meaningful provisions for the citizens of North Lanarkshire in the field of social welfare.
 - **Overall Funds:** taking account of the total money which is available to the Social Work Department for Section 10 funding.
- 2.3 The Committee noted at its meeting in March 2004 the implementation of Funding Agreements for projects in receipt of Section 10 funds of £10,000 and above.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 There are 7 applications currently seeking Section 10 funds:

- VAMW Training Ltd for non-recurring revenue funding of £40,000
- Monklands Association of Voluntary Service (MAVS) for one off capital expenditure of £4,500.00
- CABIA for contribution of revenue costs of £15,000
- Beulah for additional revenue funding of £9,400
- Scottish Women's Aid for contribution of revenue costs of £2,000
- S.C.I.M. for contribution to revenue costs £2000.00
- Monklands Mental Health Issues Group for start up costs of £700

A brief project description and assessment recommendation for each project being considered for funding is contained in Appendix 1(A & B) of this report.

3.2 The application from VAMW Training Ltd arises from changes in the rules governing funding from Scottish Enterprise for Training to Work schemes. Council funding would be non-recurring to enable the organisation to reshape its objectives and seek alternative sources of funding beyond 31st March 2005.

3.3 The application from Monkland's Association of Voluntary Service (MAVS) to carry out adaptations to premises to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act is the first that has been received from a voluntary organisation for this purpose. It is the view of the Department that this is not on its own a Social Work issue but one which has implications for a number of Council funding streams. Guidance is being sought with regard to the Council's policy in respect of financial assistance to voluntary organisations to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). A decision on this request without this consideration could set a precedent for Committee. It is proposed officers of the Social Work Department assist MAVS pursue other funding sources.

3.4 The Council has just recently established an Officer Member Group to carry out a review of financial advice and information services. Part of the review exercise will be to identify gaps in services and how they can be addressed. Committee may consider it inappropriate at this stage to make any funding commitments to new advice services until such times as the Review Group has completed its work. This is reflected in the assessment and recommendation in relation to CABIA.

3.5 As reported at Committee in March 2004 Funding Agreements and supervising arrangements for all projects receiving funding of £10,000 and above are now in place. All the Funding Agreements have had the additional scrutiny of being approved by the Departments Contract's Panel. An annual review process for these projects has taken place involving the identification of relevant monitoring officers, visits to each project and the preparation of a review report. Where Section 10 funding is the main source of funds for meeting staffing costs for the organisation an increase in annual grant level in line with the Local Government pay settlement has been recommended. Committee will be advised of the details of this once the outcome of the pay settlement is finalised. Details of any issues arising from the review visits are outlined in Appendix 2.

- 3.6 Further work in bringing a more uniform approach across Council grant streams to monitoring grant funded organisations took place in March 2004 under the auspices of the Council's Value For Money Working Group. The training, which was organised and delivered jointly by Social Work Strategy Section and Community Services was attended by 51 staff from four separate Departments (Social Work, Community Services, Planning & Environment and Education Early Years). Of the 51 participants 18 were from Social Work.
- 3.7 The work of the Value For Money Grants Group has now been completed and a report is being submitted to the Council's Policy and Strategy Committee. Individual Departments will now be responsible for implementing the processes and procedures as outlined within the report. Committee will receive a copy of the report in due course.


4 FINANCIAL /PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Departmental budget for Section 10 grants for the period 2004/05 is £430,653.00. Committee has already committed expenditure of £361,200.00 leaving a balance of £69,453.00 for new applications this financial year.
- 4.2 If the two recommendations for funding totalling £41,700 are approved, this will leave a balance of £27,753 uncommitted.
- 4.3 A new version of the COSLA guidance on funding external organisations titled "Following The Public Pound" was issued in March 2004. The work carried out as a consequence of the Review of Section 10 Processes and Procedures in 2002 and the work of the Council's VFM Grants Group has ensured that the Department is following good practice in developing the management of its Section 10 Grants processes in line with COSLA guidance.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Committee is requested to:
- i To note the outcome of reviews in relation to the formal funding agreements for projects in receipt of funding of £10,000 and above and that recommendations will be brought to a future committee relating to a proposed increase in grant level in line any national pay settlement as recommended for those projects solely funded through Section 10.
 - ii Agree to the recommendations for the provision of Section 10 funding for Scottish Care & Information on Miscarriage; Monklands Mental Health Issues Group and VAMW Training Limited totalling £41,700.00 as outlined in Appendix 1 (section A).
 - iii Agree to the recommendation to refuse the 4 applications for funding from the organisations as outlined in Appendix 1 (section B).

- iv Refer the issue of Council grant support for adaptations to premises in respect of the Disability Discrimination Act to Housing and Property Services and Planning and Environment.
- v To otherwise note the report

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Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
16 August 2004

For further information on this report please contact George McNally, Manager Social Work Strategy (Tel: 01698 332555)

APPENDIX 1

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON CURRENT APPLICATIONS

SECTION 1A

Project	Purpose of Grant Requested	Assessment and Recommendation
54/2004 S.C.I.M. (Scottish Care & Information on Miscarriage)	Contribute to Revenue costs of organisation	Recommendation to award grant of £1000 in line with previous award.
57/2004 Monklands Mental health Issues Group (Local support group for people with mental health problems)	New application for grant to establish core support group	Recommendation to award grant of £700 be awarded to contribute to development of group.
58/2004 VAMW Training Limited	Provide non-recurring revenue funding to allow service to continue until 31 March 2005. Allows time for organisation to reshape objectives and seek alternative funding sources.	Recommendation to award grant of £40,000 on a non-recurring basis.

SECTION 1B

Project	Purpose of Grant Requested	Assessment and Recommendation
41/2004 CABIA Counselling and Benefits in Action (Benefits advice and counselling project. Mainly voluntary with funding from Community Fund and Lloyds T.S.B.)	To fund a community counselling and benefits advice service within the Whinhall area of Airdrie.	The Council is currently undertaking a review of financial advice provision and until such times that the review has concluded it would be inappropriate to fund this initiative. Recommendation : Grant is Refused.
51/2004 M.A.V.S. Monklands Association for Voluntary Services (Local Council of Voluntary Service funded mainly via Chief Executives Dept)	To carry out adaptations to premises to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.	Pending guidance in respect of funding voluntary organisations meet the requirements of the DDA, it is proposed Social Work officers assist MAVS pursue other funding sources. Recommendation : Defer decision.
55/2004 Scottish Womens Aid (National organisation providing support to local groups)	Contribute to revenue costs for national organisation	NLC currently funds three Women's Aid units which directly supports service provision within the authority. Recommendation : Grant is Refused
56/2004 Beulah Scotland (Local furniture re-cycling project based in Wishaw, previously known	This is an additional request for funding as this organisation has a three year funding agreement for £8,000. This request is to	The existing grant is adequate for the small percentage of NLC service users who access the furniture project. The

as Lanarkshire Furniture Initiative.)	contribute to funding for a Co-ordinators post which will manage an upholstery training initiative currently funded through New Deal.	proposed project relates to a training initiative rather than the recycling project. Recommendation : Grant is Refused
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APPENDIX 2

Review/Monitoring visits to organisations with a formal Funding Agreement.

Organisation	Date of Review	General Comments / Any Issues Arising
Beulah	02/04/04	Meeting monitoring requirements, however figures indicate provision to families in crisis is lower than anticipated. The organisation has made a further application for additional funding. This is reported in Appendix 1.
Chryston District Carers Support Group	26/01/04	Meeting Monitoring requirements. Funding to be increased in line with salary award to local authorities.
Craigneuk Benefit Group	23/01/04	Issues identified regarding uncertainty over future of accommodation. Group to advise on any proposals. Meeting monitoring requirements. Funding to be increased in line with salary award to local authorities.
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Unemployed Workers Centre	01/04/04	Meeting monitoring requirements. Funding to be increased in line with salary award to local authorities.
Family Mediation West	25/05/04	Meeting monitoring requirements. Level of funding adequate and no additional funding required for 2004/5
Newmains Community Advice Centre	26/01/04	Meeting Monitoring requirements. Funding to be increased in line with salary award to local authorities.
One Plus: One Parent Families	17/01/04	Meeting monitoring requirements. Level of funding adequate and no additional funding required for 2004/5
P.E.T.A.L. (People Experiencing Trauma and Loss)	13/04/04	Meeting monitoring requirements. Level of funding adequate and no additional funding required for 2004/5
T.I.A.C. (Tannochside Information & Advice Centre)	07/04/04	Meeting monitoring requirements. Funding to be increased in line with salary award to local authorities.
Watch Us Grow	31/03/04	Meeting monitoring requirements. Level of funding adequate and no additional funding recommended for 2004/5