

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: NORTH LANARKSHIRE STRATEGY FOR CARERS: PROGRESS REPORT ON KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND THE USE OF CARER DEVELOPMENT FUNDING
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 26 AUGUST 2004	Ref: GS/	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 To advise Committee of current progress on key developments to support carers, including the use of Carer Development Funding.

## 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. This funding has enabled the development of a number of new initiatives to support carers while enhancing existing ones.
- 2.2. In recognition of the need to continue to expand support to carers, in August 2003, Committee agreed 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. 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, carer organisations, Health and Social Work. The group was responsible for the production of the North Lanarkshire Strategy for Carers 2001-2004 and provides a forum where action is agreed with the aim of improving the lives of carers in North Lanarkshire.

## 3. PROPOSALS/CONSIDERATIONS

### 3.1. Carer Development Funding

- Committee have previously approved a number of funding proposals on a recurring basis for 3 years. Taking into account annual inflationary uplifts committed expenditure for 2004/2005 is estimated at £564,756 for existing initiatives. Several of these projects will be subject to review in the current year as the 3 year funding arrangements come to an end. The outcomes of these reviews and proposals for continued funding will be reported to committee for approval later in the year.

- New proposals for the use of funding to date as agreed by the Carers Strategy Implementation Group are detailed in Table 1 below:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Amount</b>
University of Stirling	Dementia Awareness Training for Carers	£7,586
NCH Young Carers Project	Young Carers Break Fund	£8,225
Hillview Special Needs Playscheme	Transport costs for outings	£1,400
George McMahon, Graphic Designer	Design and printing of Carer Information Line cards and display boxes	£3,455
NCH Young Carers Project	Contribution to funding for Open Day	£588
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£21,254.00</b>

- The balance of funding available for 2004/2005 is £81,500 and proposals for its use will be reported to Committee later in the year.
- The process of agreeing the use of the carer development funding has been reviewed. The Funding Sub Group of the Carer Strategy Implementation Group has been reorganised. The sub group consists of individual carers and is supported by social work staff. The sub group considers all applications and proposals for funding. It reports to the Carers Strategy Implementation Group which has ultimate responsibility for recommending the use of the funding to the Director of Social Work.

### 3.2. Information for Carers

- The value of providing information of the highest quality to carers in relation to their caring role and their rights as carers cannot be underestimated. Progress has been made to ensure carers have access to information. Of major significance has been the launch of a Carers Information Line at the AGM of North Lanarkshire Carers Together in June 2004.
- The Carers Information Line is a freephone service staffed by the Carer Support Workers, employed by the Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Carers Centre from their base in ARCh in Bellshill. It operates on weekdays from 9.30am to 4.30pm.
- The service has been funded from the balance of carer development funding earmarked to develop information for carers. As the year progresses, a clearer indication of ongoing running costs will emerge and a report to Committee will be prepared outlining the proposed funding package.
- North Lanarkshire Carers Together, as the organisation in North Lanarkshire representing the views of carers, has employed several carers on a part time basis with a remit to promote the Information Line widely throughout North Lanarkshire. In collaboration with colleagues from NHS Lanarkshire and the Carer Support Workers, progress has already been made both to raise awareness of carers issues and promote the Information Line with local health staff.

### 3.3. Strategy for Carers in North Lanarkshire

- Work is currently underway to produce a new Strategy for Carers in North Lanarkshire. This will outline achievements made over the last 3 years and set out an Action Plan for the next 3 years.
- Key areas for development include better support for Black and Ethnic Minority Carers, independent advocacy for carers, support for carers in employment and support for carers where a family member is affected by drug or alcohol misuse.
- The draft Strategy will be presented to a future Social Work Committee.

### 3.4. Evaluation of the work of the Carers Strategy Implementation Group

- An independent organisation, Lowland Market Research, was commissioned to undertake an evaluation of the functioning and work of the Carer Strategy Implementation Group.
- The major achievements of the group were acknowledged. This included the :
  - production of a North Lanarkshire Strategy for Carers
  - involvement of carers in key decision making
  - monitoring of progress and agreeing the use of funding
  - providing a forum for carers, professionals and carer organisations to work in partnership,
- A number of areas for development were also highlighted. This included :

Previewing of the role, function and membership of the group. Work has commenced in this area. Plans include an increase in the number of carers attending and identification of key representatives from other Council Departments.

- Improving the mechanisms for communication and networking.
- Continuing to raise the profile of carers in North Lanarkshire.
- Ensuring the mechanisms for agreeing the use of funding are robust and clear to all partners. Work has commenced, with the introduction of a Funding Pack, a reconstituted funding sub group and a clear method of monitoring the use of funding.

### 3.5. Monklands Hospital Carers Co-ordinator

- In 2001, a Carer Co-ordinator was employed at Monklands Hospital in Airdrie to assist carers whose relatives or friends had been admitted to the hospital. This post was funded by carer development monies.
- In view of the reported success of the initiative in achieving improved outcomes for carers, it was agreed to provide additional funding to continue with the post.
- In 2003, the Nuffield Centre at the University of Glasgow was commissioned to evaluate the impact of the post on carers' experiences of the discharge process
- A very positive report was produced that shows that the Co-ordinator has made a significant difference to both the experiences of carers and the approach of hospital staff in their work with carers. Carers participating in the study reported an increase in confidence that their needs had been taken into account and that everything they required had been done to make the journey from hospital to home as smooth as possible.
- Discussions are taking place with colleagues from NHS Lanarkshire to consider the potential for the further development of this initiative with hospitals in Lanarkshire.

### 3.6. Hospital Information Pack for Carers

- A pack has been produced to provide carers with information when the person they care for is in hospital. This development has taken place in partnership with NHS Lanarkshire, Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Carers Centre and South Lanarkshire Council.

#### 4. FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The funding available for the development of support to 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) approve the use of monies to support carers as set out in Table 1
- (ii) request the Director to provide future progress reports in relation to service development and expenditure.
- (iii) note the contents of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**16 August 2004**

**Note :** Copies of both reports have been placed in the Members Library :

- Evaluation of the Carer Strategy Implementation Group and
- "Smoothing the Path to Discharge for Carers"

*For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager (Adults) (TEL: 01698 332177) or Gordon Simpson, Senior Officer (Carers) (TEL: 01698 332265)*