

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM No. **4**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: UPDATE ON CARER DEVELOPMENT FUNDING
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 10 MARCH 2005	Ref: GS/	

1. Purpose of Report / Introduction

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 is currently in the process of producing the next Strategy that will lay out development plans for the next 3 years. A draft of this new Strategy was presented to Committee for consideration in January 2005.

3. Proposals / Considerations

- 3.1. Committee has previously approved a number of funding proposals for expenditure on a 3 year recurring basis and for one off purposes. The Carers Strategy Implementation Group has recently agreed additional one off grants which will ensure that the 2004/05 budget is fully committed. These are laid out in the table below and are submitted to Committee for approval.

Organisation	Purpose	2004 - 2005
ENABLE Cumbernauld	Funding for volunteer expenses to provide short break opportunities for carers of people with learning disabilities	£1,000
NCH Young Carers Project	Funding for local young carers to visit art exhibition featuring their work.	£600
Social Work Department	Additional funding of £2000 to each Area Team to support short break opportunities for carers.	£12,000
Training Carer Awareness	Focus of this training will be mainstream agencies such as staff in the Council Social Work Dept.	£20,500

- 3.2. A number of organisations have been funded for 3 years and review processes are underway. When this is complete recommendations will be made about the future funding of these organisations.
- 3.3. There have been 35 allocations of funding to 21 organisations, ranging from the larger organisations supporting carers, organisations providing respite care breaks, the Social Work Department, NHS Lanarkshire and to very small groups providing support to carers through groups or on an individual basis. Monitoring takes place to ensure that good outcomes are being achieved for carers.

The funding has been used for a wide range of purposes, including:


- employment of staff to provide direct support to carers
- employment of staff to provide services to people with carers to enable carers to have a break from their caring responsibilities.
- training opportunities for carers
- provision of information for carers
- provision of funds for carers to have a break in their own right
- provision of respite care
- running costs for small groups supporting carers

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. The use of the budget is consistent with the National Strategy for Carers, the North Lanarkshire Strategy for Carers and the Joint Community Care Plan.
- 4.2. There are no other personnel/legal/policy implications at this time.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Committee is asked to:
- (i) approve the use of monies to support carers
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.


Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
31 January 2004

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager, Community Care, Adult Services (Tel: 01698 332177) or Gordon Simpson, Senior Officer, Carers (Tel: 01698 332265)