

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: CARER DEVELOPMENTS AND THE USE OF FUNDING	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
Date: 25 AUGUST 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, committee subsequently 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 2005-2008.

3. Proposals / Considerations

Recent Developments

- 3.1 The new Strategy for Carers 2005-2008 was approved by Committee in May 2005 and has now been published. The launch took place at the beginning of Carers Week in June at the AGM of North Lanarkshire Carers Together. Representation from NHS Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire Carers Together and the Council at the launch underlined the partnership approach to both the production of this particular document and the ongoing commitment to support carers throughout North Lanarkshire. Progress reports on the actions proposed in the strategy will be reported to future committees.
- 3.2 Carers Week also gave carers the opportunity to attend a picnic, pampering sessions and information sessions. Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Centre held an event for male carers that was well attended.
- 3.3 On 22nd June almost 300 carers and their supporters attended the annual Reception and Lunch for carers at Motherwell Concert Hall. This annual event provides an opportunity for the important and valuable work carers undertake to be publicly acknowledged.
- 3.4 North Lanarkshire Carers Together have become a Company Limited by Guarantee and a service contract with the Council is being developed.

Carer Development Funding

3.5 Since May 2005, the Carers Strategy Implementation Strategy Group has agreed a number of additional funding arrangements as follows:

Organisation	Purpose	Recommendation	Proposed Funding 2005/2006
Parkinsons Self Help Group North Lanarkshire	Support, respite and complementary therapies for carers of people with the Parkinsons condition.	Funding to be provided for 1 year.	£10,905
Cumbernauld Action for Care of the Elderly	Funding for day care service, providing respite for carers for 1 year.	Following a review, continuation of funding for 1 year. Decision on future funding to be made later in 2006.	£18,500
RASCALS Out of School Project, Cumbernauld	After school care for children with learning disabilities.	Following a review, continuation of funding for 1 year. Decision on future funding to be made in early 2006.	£22,335

3.6 The budget for carer developments in 2004/2005 was fully committed, and taking account of ongoing funding commitments, the balance from the budget for 2005/2006, assuming approval of the above proposals, is estimated at approximately £7000. Further details of the spend in the current year and the proposed uses of the balance will be reported to committee in due course.

4. Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications

- 4.1 The carer development monies are part of existing community care budgets, and are used to support carer initiatives with the active involvement of local carers and carer organisations.
- 4.2 The work outlined is consistent with national and local policy objectives, and there are no personnel 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
2 August 2005

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)