

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: CARER DEVELOPMENTS AND THE USE OF FUNDING
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 12 JANUARY 2006	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 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 carer 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

- 3.1 Committee approved the Strategy for Carers 2005-2008 in May 2005. A development session for the Carers Strategy Implementation Group, facilitated by officers, is scheduled for January 2006. The aim of this session is to consider the action plan and prioritise the work that needs to progress.
- 3.2 The Carer Liaison and Support Project (CLASP) provides support to carers in the Wishaw/Shotts area. This service has been provided in house by the department for a number of years. Each of the 5 other area teams has a carer support worker employed by the Princess Royal Trust Lanarkshire Carers Centre. The CLASP project co-ordinator departed in the summer of 2005 to take up a qualified social worker post. At this point, it was agreed that consideration should be given to aligning the service in Wishaw/Shotts with the provision elsewhere in North Lanarkshire. Following a period of discussion and consultation with carers, it was agreed to retain CLASP in its current form. The process to recruit a new project co-ordinator is in progress.
- 3.3 North Lanarkshire Carers Together held a very successful conference in November 2005 at which carers and professionals participated in a series of workshops about carer assessments/carer resource planning, care in the community and NHS Lanarkshire's 'Picture of Health'. Over 200 carers attended this event.
- 3.4 A motion was lodged in the Scottish Parliament by Margaret Mitchell, MSP in October 2005 commending North Lanarkshire Carers Together for its work in giving carers a voice and supporting its continued funding.

- 3.5 Training for staff to raise awareness of carers needs and issues and to ensure relevant staff are equipped to undertake assessment and resource planning work with carers will commence in February 2006. The courses will be facilitated and co-ordinated by a trainer from Carers Scotland, with the direct involvement of local carers.
- 3.6 Since August 2005, the Carers Strategy Implementation Strategy Group has agreed a number of additional funding arrangements as follows:

Organisation	Purpose	Proposed Funding 2005/2006
NCH Young Carers Project	Fund to support holidays for young carers	£8,237
Watch Us Grow Project, Cumbernauld	Afternoon sessions of arts and crafts for people with learning disabilities. Carers benefit by having regular breaks from caring.	£5,674
North Lanarkshire Carers Together	Purchase of 50,000 more Carer Information Line cards.	£1,500
Partners in Play	Contribution to funding for a parent carers conference early in 2006	£3,000

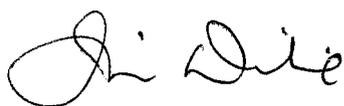
- 3.7 A review has been undertaken of the work of North Lanarkshire Carers Together and the Carers Strategy Implementation Group has agreed that this organisation should continue to receive funding for its core activities from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006. In line with conditions for a number of other organisations, it is recommended that a 3-year funding arrangement, subject to review, be put in place. Details will be agreed by the Carers Strategy Implementation Group and reported to Committee in due course.
- 3.8 A full summary of the use of carer development funding in 2005/2006 will be reported to Committee in March 2006.

#### 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; and
  - (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
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**22 November 2005**

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