

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: CARER DEVELOPMENT FUNDING	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
Date: 18 MAY 2006	Ref: GS		

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

To advise committee of proposals for the use of carer development funding in 2006/2007.

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 The Carers Strategy Implementation Group has reviewed options for carer development expenditure for 2006/2007. The group was challenged by the fact that projected funding based on the spend for 2005/2006 could not be sustained without significant overspend. It was noted that the additional funding of £627,500 made available from the Scottish Executive had not increased since 2001. The additional £40,000 agreed by Committee in 2003, while enabling some increased capacity, has not been sufficient to keep up with annual demands on the budget to sustain existing projects and to fund new developments. Several proposals were agreed to ensure sufficient funding would be available for the current financial year. These proposals were:
 - Funding uplifts to organisations and groups to be limited to take account of inflationary increases (a number of organisations had estimated requirements in excess of this).
 - Funding for the Carers Co-ordinator at Monklands Hospital agreed until October 2006 only, pending discussion with NHS Lanarkshire about ongoing funding.
 - Suspension of the Carer Break Fund until the end of June 2006 and reinstatement at a proposed annual level of £40,000. This fund provides carers with a grant of up to £150 to help them fund a break in their own right. A process to review the use of this fund and its benefit to carers has commenced.

Agreed proposals for funding in 2006/2007 are laid out in the table below.

ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Alzheimers Scotland	Support for ex-carers and carers of people in long term care.	£28,325
Cumbernauld Action for Care of the	Provision of day care for older people to give carers a break.	£19,055
NCH Young Carers Project	Development worker salary and associated costs	£32,074
NCH Young Carers Project	Holiday fund to enable young carers to have a break.	£8,484
NHS Lanarkshire	Carer Co-ordinator post at Monklands Hospital	£13,807
North Lanarkshire Carers Together	Core Costs	£75,716
North Lanarkshire Carers Together	Funds to employ carer information link workers and associated costs.	£23,000
Parkinson's Group, Motherwell	Support for carers through therapy, befriending, drop in service.	£15,907
Parkinson's Group, North Lanarkshire	Support and respite services for carers.	£10,660
Partners in Play	Resource Worker 13 + salary and related costs	£27,703
Partners in Play	Play Scheme Resource Worker. Costs shared with North Lanarkshire Childcare Partnership	£12,500
PRT Lanarkshire Carers Centre	Training Officer – Costs shared with South Lanarkshire Council.	£11,383
PRT Lanarkshire Carers Centre	Carer Support Service	£120,109
PRT Lanarkshire Carers Centre	Training for Carers Budget	£15,000
PRT Lanarkshire Carers Centre	Clerical worker to support the carer support service.	£2,800
Redburn After School Care and	After school support for children with learning disabilities.	£23,025
Social Work Department	Respite care – People with Learning Disabilities.	£95,000
Social Work Department	Respite care – People with Physical Disabilities.	£60,000
Social Work Department	Carers Support Service – Salaries –seconded staff	£23,173
Social Work Department	Funding to enable carers to take a break in their own right.	£40,000
TOTAL		£657,721

- 3.2 Funding arrangements for 2006/2007 with the savings agreed will result in the budget being almost completely committed. In addition, there are further applications to the value of approximately £60,000 which have not been progressed due to pressure on the budget.

- 3.3 It is clear that the capacity to fund developments to support carers in the future is now extremely limited. The use of the budget this year has been critically examined and proposals to restrict expenditure agreed to avoid an overspend. Organisations are encouraged to access alternative sources of funding. However, potential funders, while interested in new initiatives, are reluctant to consider applications for core funding. This means that there is an ongoing increasing commitment to a number of projects provided with funding on a recurring basis.
- 3.4 In order to ensure a continuing appropriate level of funding for developments for carers, it is proposed to increase the budget by 2.7% for 2006/2007 and annually for the following 2 years. This will result in a total budget for carer development as follows:

Funding 2006/2007	Funding 2007/2008	Funding 2008/2009
£685,523	£704,032	£723,041

This will ensure that there is capacity to cover annual inflationary uplifts for organisations in receipt of funding on a recurring basis. The additional monies will also provide some scope for the development of further smaller initiatives to support carers in North Lanarkshire.

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 additional funding will be found from allocations for community care for 2006-7 and future years.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Committee is asked to
- (i) approve the use of monies to support carers;
 - (ii) approve the increase to the carer development budget; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the contents of this report



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
 19th April 2006

For further information on this report please contact Brian McAteer, Service Manager, Planning (Tel: 01698 332067) or Gordon Simpson, Senior Officer, Carers Tel: 01698 332265