

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: SECTION 10 GRANTS
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 18 MAY 2006	Ref: GF/JD	

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee on current applications for funding and other issues relating to the management of the Section 10 Grants programme.

2. Background

2.1. The Council is empowered under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 to make grants or payments to voluntary organisations whose sole or primary purpose is to promote social welfare.

2.2. The criteria applied to applications have been previously endorsed by Committee and are detailed below:-

- **Performance/Quality, Value for Money:** consideration of quality services which represent good value for the Section 10 monies provided to the organisations concerned.
- **Direct Services:** recognising the need to support voluntary organisations who provide direct services to individuals and care groups which would otherwise require the Social Work Department to provide substitute services.
- **Provision of Local Services:** continued support to local organisations who provide worthwhile local services which benefit individuals and local communities.
- **Continuity:** providing ongoing support to organisations which are currently funded through Section 10.
- **Scope for Growth:** recognising the opportunities for creating new and meaningful provisions for the citizens of North Lanarkshire in the field of social welfare.
- **Overall Funds:** taking account of the total money which is available to the Social Work Department for Section 10 funding.

2.3. The overall Section 10 Budget for 2006/07 is £430,653. At its meetings on the 9th March the Committee awarded funding of £387,421 leaving a budget of £43,232 to meet any new applications this financial year.

3. Proposals/Considerations

- 3.1 Two new applications for Section 10 funding have been received from:
- the National Osteoporosis Society seeking funding of £500 to establish a local support group,
 - And the ABC Peer Support Group to provide follow up support to those who participated in the Community Day Programme.

Further information on the assessments and recommendations in relation to the above applications is provided in Appendix 1 to this report.

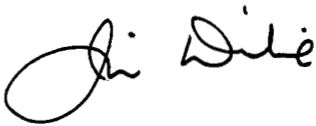
4. Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications

- 4.1. In March 2005 a report was submitted to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee outlining a new policy in relation to charging market rent for the Voluntary/Non-Commercial Sector when occupying Council Property. The purpose of the policy was to introduce a more transparent and equitable system for dealing with voluntary organisations renting commercial property from the Council.
- 4.2. Organisations which had previously received a subsidised or peppercorn rent could then apply for grant assistance to cover the cost of the increased market rental. Requests for assistance with rental would then be assessed against general grant criteria. The policy introduced a phased introduction of increased charges over a 4 year period with no change in the first year. We have now entered the second year of this policy and two organisations currently in receipt of Section 10 funding will be significantly affected this year. These are Beulah (Lanarkshire Furniture Initiative) and Newmains Advice Centre. See Appendix 1.
- 4.3. The revenue budgetary implications of the policy is intended to be neutral on the assumption that any additional income received from the existing properties when let to voluntary/non-commercial organisations will be used to fund a corresponding uplift in the grants awarded to these organisations. The additional income would then be ring-fenced within the Property Division to enable a budget realignment to the Grants Budget within the Chief Executives Budget. However it is not clear how individual departmental grants budgets such as Section 10 will be reimbursed from the centre.
- 4.4. It would be the Department's intention to support the increased rental costs of Beulah and Newmains Advice Centre. This would be in line with the new policy if the revenue implications remain neutral through a realignment of the Section 10 Budget in light of the increased revenue to Property Services on the current properties occupied by these two organisations.
- 4.5. The remaining Section 10 funding available this financial year for any new applications is £43,232. If the application from the National Osteoporosis Society for £500 and ABC Support Group for £500 is approved this will leave a balance of £42,232 for any further applications during the year.

5. **Recommendation**

5.1. The Committee is asked to:

- i. Approve the recommendation to award the National Osteoporosis Society £500 and ABC Support Group £500
- ii. Increase current grant awarded to Beulah and Newmains Advice Centre to reflect increased property costs subject to appropriate reimbursement of the Section 10 Grants Budget in light of new policy.
- iii. Otherwise note the contents of the report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
5 May, 2006

For further information on this report please contact Gus Ferguson on telephone 01698 332560

APPENDIX 1

RECOMMENDATIONS ON APPLICATIONS

Ref. No.	Organisation	Amount Requested	Summary of Assessment and Recommendation
54/2006	National Osteoporosis Society	£1,500	This is a national organisation setting up a North Lanarkshire branch. This self help group will inform advise and raise money to fund research into the condition. The grant will fund the revenue costs for the group. Recommend award of £500
57/2006	ABC Support Group - the group offers peer support and guidance to those who completed the 8 week Alcohol Community Day Programme	£500	The group has been in existence for a year and are providing a valuable and complimentary service to the successful Community Day Programme. Recommend award of £500
			Total Recommended £1,000

Section 10 Funded Projects Affected By New Rental Policy

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/2006	Newmains Advice Centre	Currently being assessed for market Rent
/2006	Beulah	Rent Increased to £9,000