

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL  
REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 26 OCTOBER 2006	Ref: SM/FT	

**1 Purpose of Report / Introduction**

To advise committee of improved outcomes achieved for older people in North Lanarkshire; and to seek approval for the creation of 6 permanent Locality Link Officers posts to ensure these improvements are delivered across the whole Council area.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Day services for older people are undergoing significant redesign as part of the implementation of the Joint Future agenda. Integrated day services are being developed with the aim of providing a service to those older people with more complex care needs. A range of community based options are also being put in place in order to ensure that those older people who are lonely and isolated in their homes can access alternative services in their own community. In the past older people with the greatest needs did not necessarily get access to services they needed, and people with lower level of needs were often placed on waiting lists for day care rather than be supported to remain connected in their own communities.
- 2.2 Funding was secured from the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) for 3 Locality Link Officers and these officers were appointed in September 2005, following a composite report prepared by the Chief Executives department, approved by the Policy & Resources (Establishment Monitoring) Sub Committee in April 2005.
- 2.3 These posts have proved to be very effective in linking people to a range of community based resources. The officers also provide useful information to other practitioners within health and social work services so that they too can find other community based opportunities for older people. They have demonstrably achieved the intended outcome of targeting intensive services at those with the greatest need, and supporting others in more appropriate ways.
- 2.4 The most developed example of this success is in the Coatbridge area where the Sinclair Integrated Day Service at Coathill Hospital supports older people with complex needs and the locality planning arrangements enables others to regain, or maintain, their community links.

### 3 Proposals / Considerations

- 3.1 At present the three Locality Link Officers are confined by the terms of Community Regeneration Fund to operate, for the most part, in datazone areas. This means that older people in large parts of the Council area have not yet benefited from this approach. Furthermore the three existing workers are only employed until March 2008. The department is anxious to sustain improvements made at the earliest opportunity and secure progress to date on a more substantial footing.
- 3.2 It is therefore proposed to create 6 permanent posts of Locality Link Officers. The Joint Future Human Resources Working Group recommended the introduction of these additional posts in August 2006.

### 4 Financial / Personnel / Legal / Policy Implications

#### 4.1 Salary scale for Locality Link Officers RW23 (SCP 27-30 £21,327-£23,610)

mid point for each post	20% on costs	Additional budget costs per post	Actual annual costs per post	Total costs for 6 posts per annum	CRF budget until March 08	Actual costs until March 08
£ 22,468	£4,493	£15,000	£41,961	£251,766	£107,657	£144,109

- 4.2 The posts represent excellent value for the Council, given the costs of direct service provision. The additional budget of £15,000 per post is necessary to purchase flexible transport and support arrangements for people accessing community facilities.
- 4.3 Community Regeneration Funding for three of the posts will continue until March 2008. Funding for the other posts, and ultimately all six (in the event that CRF remains temporary) is contained within the local government settlement for community care.

### 5 Recommendation

- 5.1 Committee is asked to:
- (i) approve the creation of six permanent posts of Locality Link Officers for older people;
  - (ii) endorse the continued approach to improve outcomes achieved for older people to date and progress achieved to date; and
  - (iii) otherwise note the content of this report.



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**23 August 2006**

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