

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: "EVENING TIMES" LOCAL HEROES AWARDS 2003
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 4 MAY 2004	Ref: EC/March/2004	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. To inform Committee of the outcome of the Evening Times "Local Heroes" Awards 2003 which the Authority co-sponsored.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The "Local Heroes" (formerly the "Caring Cup") Awards were introduced over fourteen years ago as a joint initiative between the Editor of the Evening Times and the Convenor of Strathclyde Regional Council.
- 2.2. The Awards are given annually for outstanding voluntary work by community groups from the participating Authorities. Each year the theme for the Awards has changed and for this year there were awards for four broad areas of Group Community Involvement:
  - Support of Carers
  - Community Spirit
  - Health and Wellbeing
  - Breaking Down Barriers

There were three individual awards and a new award for Youth Community Groups (including Brownies, Cubs, School Groups)
- 2.3. Winners of the four Group Community Involvement Awards each received a cheque for £2,000, while the people chosen for the three individual awards received a commemorative trophy and winners of the new award for Youth Community Groups received a cheque for £500.
- 2.4. Members agreed at the Sub-Committee meeting of the 1st April 1998 that the Council should support the Evening Times "Local Heroes" Awards in subsequent years.
- 2.5. North Lanarkshire Council hosted the Awards in the year 2000.
- 2.6. The 2003 initiative was jointly sponsored by the Evening Times, North Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, The City of Glasgow Council, East Renfrewshire Council, North Ayrshire Council, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers and First BUS. East Renfrewshire Council hosted the Awards this year which were held in the National Stadium at Hampden.

- 2.7. This year 7 groups and 2 individuals were nominated by staff from North Lanarkshire Council.
- 2.8. Three of the groups and two individuals were successful with the following awards / recognition achieved:
- Coatbridge and Airdrie Substance Support Initiative (CASSI) came first in the Breaking down Barriers Award category
  - Redburn After School Care and Leisure Scheme (RASCALS) came first in the Support of Carers Award Category
  - Viewpark Young Peoples Volunteer Group were commended in the Young Heroes Awards category and the two individuals nominated also won in the individual awards category.

### **3. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. The cost to the Council of sponsoring the Local Heroes Awards will be £5,000 with approximately an additional £2,500 for promotional gifts bearing the Council Logo to be distributed to everyone attending the Awards Ceremony. These costs will be met from the Social Work budget.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1. This is considered a worthwhile way to recognise publicly the large amount of caring that is done in the community by people who seek no financial rewards. It has the additional benefit of contributing to the positive public image of the Council.
- 4.2. Committee is asked to:
- (i) agree to sponsor the Awards in 2004.
  - (ii) seek further reports to Committee on the progress of the Awards
  - (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**(4 May 2004)**

*For further information on this report please contact Edward Cherrie, Senior Information & Performance Officer TEL: (01698 332028)*