

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject "EVENING TIMES" LOCAL HEROES AWARDS 2004
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 5 OCTOBER 2004	Ref: MF/EC	

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

The purpose of this report is to inform committee of the progress made in the sponsoring by North Lanarkshire Council of the Evening Times "Local Heroes" Awards 2004.

2. Background

- 2.1. The "Local Heroes" (formerly the "Caring Cup") Awards were introduced over sixteen years ago as a joint initiative between the Editor of the Evening Times and the Convenor of Strathclyde Regional Council.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. Members further agreed at the Sub-Committee meeting of the 5 May 2004 to sponsor the awards in 2004.
- 2.4. 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 will be Awards for four broad areas of Group Community Involvement:
 - Caring Award
 - Community Spirit Award
 - Health and Wellbeing Award
 - Breaking Down Barriers Award
 - Young Heroes Award and
 - several Individual Awards
- 2.5. Group Community Award winners will each receive a cheque for £2,000 and a commemorative trophy. The Young Heroes winner will receive £500 and a commemorative trophy while the Individual Awards will receive commemorative trophies.
- 2.6. North Lanarkshire Council hosted the Awards in the year 2000 and has been asked to host the Awards for this year.
- 2.7. Sponsors for this year include North Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Glasgow City Council, East Renfrewshire Council, North Ayrshire Council, First (Bus) & the Evening Times.
- 2.8. Last year seven groups and two individuals were nominated by staff from North Lanarkshire Council.

2.9. 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.

2.10. The provisional time-table the 2005 awards are as follows:-

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • October 2004 | Launch in the "Evening Times" |
| • November/ December | Distribute Entry Forms |
| • October - December | In Paper Features |
| • 17 December 2004 | Closing Date for Entries |
| • November - January 2005 | Sifting Process |
| • End January 2005 | Judging Ceremony |
| • February 2005 | Awards Ceremony |

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 £1,700 for promotional gifts bearing the Council Logo to be distributed to all participants attending the Awards Ceremony. These costs will be met from the Social Work Department budget.

3.2 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. **Recommendation**

4.1 Committee is asked:

- (i) to support and host the Awards in 2005.
- (ii) to seek further reports on the progress of the Awards arrangements
- (iii) to otherwise note the contents of the report



**Director of Social Work
(14 September 2004)**

For further information on this report please contact Edward Cherrie, Senior Performance and Information Officer on telephone 01698- 332028