

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) COMMITTEE	Subject: DISABILITY LIVING ALLOWANCE AND ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH CANCER
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
Date: 7 DECEMBER 2004	Ref: JD/GMCI

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee that two leaflets have been produced to assist persons with cancer to claim Disability Living Allowance and Attendance Allowance.

2. Background

2.1. The Speak Easy Group, which is an organisation for people who have undergone laryngectomy operations, experienced a number of difficulties with claims for Social Security benefits. In particular, claims for Disability Living Allowance/Attendance Allowance. As part of a campaign to address this issue, the group contacted Tom Clarke MP.

3. Proposals/Considerations

- 3.1. In response to the representations made by Tom Clarke M.P. it was agreed Social Work, Welfare Rights Service would develop leaflets on Disability Living Allowance / Attendance Allowance. The leaflets provide information on the benefits and where to obtain assistance with Social Security claims. When the material was in its draft production, the opportunity was taken to consult with the Speak Easy Group on the tone and content of the leaflet. The Group were satisfied that the information met with all the aims and objectives of their initial request.
- 3.2. In addition to the leaflets, a guidance note on the benefits has been prepared for distribution to medical personnel who may be involved with the cancer sufferer. Knowledge of the benefit and the qualifying criteria will enable doctors and nurses to provide quality information on behalf of their patients in support of their benefit claim.
- 3.3. The leaflet will be made available in all North Lanarkshire GP surgeries, hospitals and hospices, as well as local Social Work Area Offices, the contact number for assistance is also included in the leaflet, together with CABs web-site address.
- 3.4. The leaflet was launched by Tom Clark, MP, Councillor Harry McGuigan, Convenor of Social Work, patients, carers and medical staff on 3rd December 2004, in the Pat Cullinan Centre, Motherwell.

4. **Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications**

- 4.1. The cost of producing the leaflet can be met from existing Social Work resources.
There are no other implications for the Council.

5. **Recommendations**

- 5.1. Committee is asked to:

note the content of this report.



Director of Social Work
15 November 2004

For further information on this report please contact George McNally on telephone 01698 332555