

Draft REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: COSLA Excellence Awards 2005
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 22 nd February 2005	Ref: JD/MM/EK	

1. **Purpose of Report/Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to inform Committee of the two Social Work projects and one joint Social Work / Community Services project, which have been nominated by North Lanarkshire Council for COSLA Excellence Awards.

2. **Background**

2.1 COSLA Excellence Awards aim to recognise projects which have demonstrated high levels of service within the categories of Service Improvement and Customer Needs; Advancing Community Well-being; Health Improvement; Securing a Workforce for the Future and Innovative use of Technology. COSLA this year will accept a maximum of two applications for any one category from each Council.

2.2 Category 2: Community Well-being - Accessible Places /Changing Lives

Project Overview

Changing Lives is an approach, which has enhanced the quality of opportunity for local people to gain access to services beyond all recognition. Staff have worked collectively, with imagination and vision, to support disabled people in living ordinary lives and to achieve desired lifestyles by making local facilities accessible and welcoming.

People with disabilities have often been the most disadvantaged in our communities. Town Centre, sports and leisure facilities as well as parks and places of interest have often remained inaccessible to people with the most challenging and complex needs. This includes people who need fully accessible adult changing facilities. Consequently, many people have had to utilise segregated, congregated services, which fail to enhance the quality of peoples lives sufficiently.

Social Work, Community Services and Housing & Property Services (Design Services) staff have worked together to ensure that plans in respect of capital work and staff development / training reflect joined up thinking and implementation. There has been a strong emphasis on thinking differently and exceeding the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. Public involvement has been key, with the work clearly reflecting the aspirations of local disabled people and their carers.

By working towards the creation of accessible, welcoming and high quality facilities in community venues in **every** main township, the Council is able to demonstrate a commitment to marginalised and disadvantaged groups. This work confirms the Council's commitment to the corporate objectives, particularly in promoting social inclusion, health wellbeing and care, and ensuring access to lifelong learning.

2.3 Category 3: Health Improvement - Infant Mental Health Group

Project Overview

The National Health Strategy for Scotland identifies infant mental health as one of its national priorities and the Scottish Executive have given a high profile to this area of national policy.

The Infant Mental Health Project is a multi-agency, professional project designed as an early intervention to support parents and families.

This project is targeted at children under 5 and in particular those most vulnerable in our communities. It endeavours to strengthen the inter-agency work between the range of professionals within the Coatbridge Area. The project has provided a platform for local planning in relation to Health and Wellbeing, a key objective of the Community and Corporate Plans.

Building upon a systematic approach, it endeavours to identify risk factors in the ante-natal period, which can often contribute to post natal depression, low parenting capabilities and poor outcomes for children.

2.4 Category 3: Health Improvement - Community Day Programme

Project Overview

Within Lanarkshire there are an estimated 48,000 people who are currently at risk of alcohol related harm due to excessive consumption and alcohol misuse.

Many of those who misuse alcohol have a chronic problem, which results in high levels of expenditure on treatment and rehabilitation programmes often with limited outcomes. In an effort to address this issue, Social Work and Health Services set about developing a Community Day Programme, an initiative designed to provide an eight week, intensive day programme, for individuals who have serious alcohol misuse problems.

The Community Day Programme is delivered in local communities and supplements other addiction services in the locality. In addition to dealing with the individual who has the alcohol misuse problem the programme provides the opportunity to engage with family members to raise their awareness of alcohol misuse and to encourage their assistance in helping their family member deal with the practical problems of alcohol misuse to achieve a more realistic opportunity for rehabilitation.

2.5 Schedule for Awards

The deadline for the submission of projects to COSLA is 25th January, 2005. Long leet will be announced 4th March 2005, short leet early in April, 2005. Presentations beginning of May, Award Ceremony June 2005 and publication of Award Summaries in July, 2005.

3. Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications

3.1 There are no financial or personnel implications attached to this report. The initiatives assist the Council to meet a range of statutory and policy requirements and help promote the Council's commitment to social inclusion.

4. Recommendation

4.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of the report
- (ii) request the Director of Social Work bring forward a report on the outcome of the bids



P.P **Jim Dickie**
Director of Social Work
1 February 2005

For further information on this report please contact M. Fegan (Head of Social Work Services) on telephone 01698-332001