

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject "EVENING TIMES" LOCAL HEROES AWARDS 2006
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 4 OCTOBER 2005	Ref: MF/EC	

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

The purpose of this report is to inform committee of the progress made in the sponsoring of the Evening Times "Local Heroes" Awards 2006 by North Lanarkshire Council.

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 3 May 2005 to sponsor the awards in 2006.
- 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 six broad areas of group and or individual community involvement or achievement:
 - Community Spirit Award
 - Health and Wellbeing Award
 - Breaking Down Barriers Award
 - Young Heroes Award
 - An Individual or Group Achievement Award (at the discretion of the judges) and several Individual Awards
- 2.5. Award winners will each receive:
 - Group Community Awards - a cheque for £2,000 and a commemorative trophy
 - The Young Heroes Award - a cheque for £500 and a commemorative trophy
 - Individual or Group Achievement Award - vouchers up to the value of £2,000 and a commemorative trophy and
 - Individual Awards will receive commemorative trophies.
- 2.6. North Lanarkshire Council hosted the Awards in 2000 and 2005. The Awards this year will be hosted by North Ayrshire Council.
- 2.7. Sponsors for this year include North Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Glasgow City Council, East Renfrewshire Council, North Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Council, First Bus and the Evening Times.
- 2.8. In the most recent awards, 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 for the 2006 awards are as follows:-

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • October 2005 | Launch in the "Evening Times" |
| • October to December | Distribute Entry Forms |
| • October - December | In Paper Features |
| • 16 December 2005 | Closing Date for Entries |
| • November 2005 - January 2006 | Sifting Process |
| • End January 2006 | Judging Ceremony |
| • February 2006 | Awards Ceremony |

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

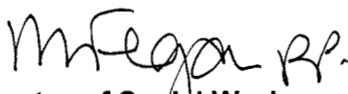
3.1. The cost to the Council of sponsoring the Local Heroes Awards is £6,000 with approximately an additional £1,700 for promotional gifts bearing the Council logo to be distributed to all participants attending the awards ceremony. These costs are normally met from the Social Work Department budget.

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 to:

- (i) seek further reports on the progress of the Awards arrangements and outcomes
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report



**Director of Social Work
(7 September 2005)**

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