

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK (OPERATIONS AND SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE	Subject "EVENING TIMES" LOCAL HEROES AWARDS 2007	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 5 DECEMBER 2006	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 2007 by North Lanarkshire Council.

2. Background

- 2.1. The "Local Heroes" (formerly the "Caring Cup") Awards were introduced over seventeen 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. 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 five broad areas of group and or individual community involvement or achievement:
 - Community Spirit Award
 - Health and Wellbeing Award
 - Breaking Down Barriers Award
 - An Individual or Group Achievement Award (at the discretion of the judges) and several Individual Awards
- 2.4. Award winners will each receive:
 - Group Community Awards - a cheque for £2,000 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.
- 2.5. North Lanarkshire Council hosted the Awards in 2000 and 2005. The Awards this year will be hosted by Glasgow City Council.
- 2.6. Sponsors for this year include North Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, Glasgow City Council, North Ayrshire Council, East Ayrshire Council and the Evening Times.

2.7. The provisional time-table for the 2006 awards are as follows:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - November 2006 | Launch in the "Evening Times" |
| - November to December | Distribute Entry Forms |
| - November to December | In Paper Features |
| - 5 January 2007 | Closing Date for Entries |
| - November 2006 - January 2007 | Sifting Process |
| - End January 2007 | Judging Ceremony |
| - 15 February 2007 | 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 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) approve the continued involvement in the Local Heroes Awards 2007
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report

M. Egan *RP*

Director of Social Work
23 October 2006

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