

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE			
PORTFOLIO AREA: WELL-BEING			
Date of Meeting:	25th November 2001		
Public			
Key Decision:	Yes	Recorded in Forward Plan:	No
Inside Policy Framework			

Title: NORTH LAKELAND - HOSPICE AT HOME

Report of: Director of Housing

Report reference: H107/2001

Summary:

To consider a request from North Lakeland – Hospice at Home for a grant from this authority.

Recommendations:

The Executive authorise a grant of £2,700 for the current financial year and refer the request to Carlisle Local Health Group for recurring funding for 2002 onwards.

Contact Officer: Laurie Brewis

Ext: 7301

North Lakeland – Hospice at Home

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1. Introduction

The authority has been approached by the above local charity requesting a grant contribution to fund services provided within the Carlisle district for the

remaining period of the present financial year and the possibility of recurring funding for future years.

2. Palliative Care

1. The attached letter clearly sets out the proportion of terminally ill patients receiving specialist palliative nursing care within the districts of Carlisle, Eden and Allerdale for the previous 18 month period.
2. Palliative Care is the active total care of patients whose illness is not responsive to curative treatment. Control of pain, of other symptoms, and of psychological, social and spiritual problems is paramount. The goal of palliative care is achievement of the best possible quality of life for patients and their families. Terminal care is an important part of palliative care and usually refers to the management of patients at the stage where there is steady deterioration in a patients condition and death is close.

3. Funding Options

1. In consideration of the need to fund the North Lakeland – Hospice at Home charitable organisation and thus support the provision of palliative nursing care to some residents of Carlisle, a one-off grant of £2,700 is proposed for the current financial year. This amount is available following a small underspend of resources the authority secured from North Cumbria Health Action Zone in 2000/01.
2. With regard to a recurring grant, no continuation funding is available from existing budgetary resources within the authority, consequently it is suggested that the application is referred to Carlisle Local Health Group for consideration.

1. CONSULTATION

1. Consultation to Date

N/A

2. Consultation proposed

N/A

2. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

No staffing implications.

3. CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS

4. LEGAL COMMENTS

N/A

5. CORPORATE COMMENTS

N/A

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Executive authorise a grant of £2,700 for the current financial year and refer the request to Carlisle Local Health Group for recurring funding for 2002 onwards.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To support the continuation of palliative care services for terminally ill patients within the district.



Orchard House Calthwaite Penrith Cumbria CA11 9QT Tel/Fax 01768 885215

Peter Stybelski Esq
Chief Executive
Carlisle City Council
Civic Centre
Carlisle CA3 8QG

9th October 2001

Dear Mr Stybelski

This local charity was formed 3 ½ years ago. It provides free specialist palliative nursing care for terminally ill patients who prefer to spend the last phase of their lives in their own homes rather than in in-patient units. The service was first started in the Penrith area and as the nursing and financial resources developed, so the service area was extended and with the final and major stage to cover urban Carlisle from January this year we now cover the whole of the Carlisle & Eden Valley PCT areas (previously covered by the North Lakeland Healthcare Trust) as provided for in our foundation deed.

Since we started, the number of patient referrals has increased almost exponentially which is both a reflexion of the need for such a service but also, we feel, a compliment to its quality. In the four successive years from 1997/98 to 2000/01, annual patient referrals were 38,50,98,189. In the present financial year, we have had 181 new patients from April to end September.

Our finances were originally pump primed by the North Cumbria Health Authority which continues to make annual grants but these now cover less than a third of our nursing costs and we have to rely on voluntary donations, grant making trusts and other bodies for the remainder in order to ensure that our service is always available when it is needed. So far we have never declined a patient who needs us and meets our referral criteria.

The Health Authority made additional one-off grants to us earlier this year, both via the Health Action Zone initiative and through the Government's Winter Warming Programme (to reduce bed demand in acute hospitals) in order to encourage us to extend our service area and particularly to cover Carlisle City. Neither we nor the Health Authority predicted the extent of the demand in Carlisle nor the rate at which it accelerated.

President: The Countess of Lonsdale
Chairman: A. L. Thorneley, LL.B.; Honorary Treasurer: A.D.I. Walker

Registered Charity Number 1061089

Our patients remain under their own GP's (one of the advantages of the service) and the following analysis shows the number of our patients per GP practice area for the year to March 2001 and the six months since then grouped into the three district council areas we cover in whole or part.

Carlisle District	2000/01	April 2001 –
Carlisle City	38 (from Jan 01)	82
Brampton	23	17
Dalston	3 (from Oct 00)	6
Kirkbride	-	4
Longtown	6 (from Oct 00)	9
Sub totals	70	118
Eden District		
Penrith & Glenridding	52	21
Appleby	12	5
Kirkby Stephen	5	5
High Hesket, Kirkoswald & Alston	8	7
Shap & Temple Sowerby	8	4
Sub totals	85	42
Allerdale District		
Caldbeck	4	2
Keswick	8	3
Aspatria	6 (from Oct 00)	6
Silloth	4 (from Oct 00)	4
Wigton	12 (from Oct 00)	6
Sub totals	34	21
 GRAND TOTALS	 189	 181

At present therefore the Carlisle GP practices account for approaching half our total patient referrals and the GP practices in Carlisle District for well over half.

The Trustees Report in the enclosed Annual Financial Statements for the year ending March 2001 gives an account of our history and activity. You will see that Eden D C makes a recurring grant (subject to annual review); indeed has done so ever since the charity first started then wholly within part of Eden District.

We have not so far approached Carlisle City Council for a grant as our first extension into the District was to Brampton in October 1999, followed by Dalston and Longtown in October 2000 and finally urban Carlisle in January 2001.

Carlisle District is now accounting for 65% of our patient referrals. 40% of our 74 contract and bank nursing staff live within the District. The enclosed accounts show that as at 1st April this year, we had approximately 3 months reserves. As I write, these have reduced to 2 months which is dangerously low as we approach the winter. By definition, it is impractical to postpone the need for terminal care although we are examining ways in which it can be rationed if it becomes necessary to reduce our level of nursing expenditure to match expected income.

I should be grateful if your members would consider helping us both with an immediate grant within the present financial year and the possibility of reviewable recurring grants in future years. I am of course also writing to the Chief Executive of Allerdale Borough Council.

Yours sincerely
Ian Walker

A D I Walker