

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
KILMARNOCK CENTRAL COMMITTEE
ARCHIBALD TAYLOR TRUST

Report by the Head of Administration and Legal Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to highlight the availability of financial assistance from the Archibald Taylor Trust, which is administered by the Council's Administration Service. The Trust can assist certain categories of female, for the purpose of providing holidays during convalescence.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1** The Trust was established following a former gift of money for the specific purpose of making awards for holidays during convalescence, for up to three weeks in each case, for females in need who have been recommended for this by their GP, are over 45 years of age, have never married, and were born in and currently reside in Kilmarnock.
- 2.2** Historically, very few applications for assistance have been received, which is attributed to the very express conditions which must be met in order to qualify for an award.
- 2.3** The low number of transactions from the Trust Fund has led to a considerable increase in reserves available for disbursement.
- 2.4** Notwithstanding the above position, applications have been submitted and several individuals have received an award.
- 2.5** In addition to travel and accommodation costs, for holidays taken within the UK and abroad, the Trust has also provided for beneficiaries to be accompanied by a companion or carer, and for modest sums of holiday-related expenditure, all of which is permissible within the terms of the Trust. Beneficiaries have made their own arrangements for their holiday, for payment direct by the Trust to the provider, or they have received a grant from which their holiday expenditure could be paid.

3. PROMOTION

- 3.1** In recent years, the Trustees have taken steps to promote the availability of holidays for qualifying individuals. This has included press advertisements, approaches to GP's in Kilmarnock, social services, residential and care establishments seeking details of potential beneficiaries, and circulation of posters and application forms to local offices. However, these steps have so far failed to identify new applicants.

3.2 Following a recent review of arrangements, it was agreed to extend promotion to the Salvation Army, the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches, who have confirmed that details were circulated to all fellowship churches, Tape Services for the Blind, Local Committees and Community Councils in Kilmarnock.

3.3 The Trustees are currently considering further promotional activity and means whereby wider community access to the Trust Fund can be achieved, in accordance with the original intention of the benefactor. However, this may take some time to accomplish.

4. MAKING APPLICATION

4.1 The application process is straightforward, discreet and confidential, merely requiring completion of a simple application form and GP's certification of need. Assistance can be given both with the application and with making holiday arrangements.

4.2 The Trust is managed by the Administration Service of the Council and can make a real difference to people who are unwell, or convalescing. The Trustees, are keen to see the Trust Fund being used to full effect and would invite applications from, or on behalf of, individuals who meet the criteria.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Any costs associated with increasing promotion of the Trust will be met from the Trust Fund, which currently stands at £404,441.

6. POLICY AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – Nil

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Members of the Local Committee:

- (i) note the availability of financial assistance for the category of females detailed in paragraph 2 of the report;
- (ii) agree to highlight the availability of assistance within their respective organisations with a view to identifying potential applicants;
- (iii) consider additional means whereby the Trust could be promoted; and
- (iv) otherwise note the contents of the report.

David Mitchell
Head of Administrative & Legal Services/Solicitor to the Council

22 February 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Scheme for Administration of the Archibald Taylor Trust
2. Minutes of meeting of the Archibald Taylor Trust held on 5 October 2005

Any person wishing to inspect the Background Papers relative to this report should contact Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer, Tel 01563 576093.

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, Tel 01563 576135

Implementation Officer: Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer.