



PROJECT PROPOSALS

Board Meeting – 18 November 2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Board for consideration applications for funding received from East Ayrshire Carers Centre to refurbish a 'Carers Cottage'; Kilmarnock College to part fund the Future Steps Project; and CONDUIT ILM to part fund the refurbishment of a project base in Kilmarnock town centre.

2. CARERS COTTAGE

- 2.1 The Princess Royal Trust East Ayrshire Carers Centre provides information, advice, training, leisure and social activities, and support to people of all ages who have a responsibility for looking after someone who is ill, frail or has a disability.
- 2.2 The Carers Centre currently supports over 3,500 adult carers and 350 young carers throughout East Ayrshire from premises in Kilmarnock and Cumnock. Current activity includes providing 'drop in' facilities for carers of all ages, weekly Young Carers Activity Groups, training and development opportunities and awareness raising. In addition, the Carers Centre delivers a range of innovative initiatives to identify and support 'hidden carers', including, the Young Carers Initiative, the Carers into Employment Initiative, the GP Initiative, the Hospital Initiative and the Family Drugs Support Initiative.
- 2.3 The Carers Centre has leased premises from East Ayrshire Council to develop a 'Carers Cottage' facility, which is sited at Howard Park, Kilmarnock. The 'Carers Cottage' will provide a secure, comfortable environment where carers of all ages will benefit from opportunities to relax, relieve stress and receive a range of support, which will assist them to continue in their caring role.
- 2.4 The Carers Centre has secured £23,000 from East Ayrshire Council and £500 from Asda to upgrade the premises, including re-roofing and the installation of security fencing. The Prince's Trust Volunteers are currently landscaping the enclosed garden area.
- 2.5 An application has been submitted to the North Board for £12,000 to purchase furniture and equipment, which will contribute to the refurbishment of the 'Carers Cottage'. It is anticipated that the facility will be opened early in the New Year.

3. FUTURE STEPS PROJECT

- 3.1 Kilmarnock College provides a range of full-time, part-time and short-term courses for over 4,000 residents of East Ayrshire. In addition, the College works in

partnership with East Ayrshire Council's Community Learning and Development to provide a range of community-based programmes.

3.2 The Future Steps Project, through the appointment of an Employment Officer based 2.5 days per week in Kilmarnock, would support the College to target disadvantaged groups to:

- increase participation rates from target groups in a range of educational and training opportunities;
- provide an aftercare service for participants accessing both college and community-based programmes, which would assist their progression into employment; and
- provide a mentoring role for individuals entering employment.

3.3 The project would offer Employability and Enterprise Workshops to students in target groups and provide assistance to sustain employment opportunities. The project aims to:

- increase motivation and employability skills of over 100 participants per year;
- increase job opportunities available to students through links to employers, Jobcentre Plus and the voluntary sector; and
- progress 20% participants into employment and 30% into education or training.

3.4 The indicative full year costs of an Employment Officer working 2.5 days per week in the north of East Ayrshire is £18,000 and the proposed sources of funding are as follows:

	£
East Ayrshire North Social Inclusion Initiative	9,900
European Social Fund	<u>8,100</u>
Total	18,000

4. CONDUIT ILM

4.1 CONDUIT ILM operates from Stagecoach premises in Kilmarnock and the project base is currently available on a month-to-month basis.

4.2 Alternative ground floor premises have been identified in Kilmarnock town centre, closely situated to public transport terminals. These premises could be readily converted to office accommodation, including an ICT training suite. In addition, the premises would also be utilised by the Working for Families Fund (WFFF) project, which is funded by the Scottish Executive and a minimum three-year lease on the premises is currently being finalised.

4.3 Sharing accommodation with the WFFF project will reduce revenue costs of rent, rates and utilities and WFFF clients accessing the office will be encouraged to participate in introductory ICT sessions, which may potentially lead individuals into full-time training. In addition, voluntary sector organisations and a range of projects will be able to access training and meeting facilities in central Kilmarnock.

4.4 Support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) will assist to convert the former retail premises into a functional training and administrative base, and will increase the capacity of CONDUIT Kilmarnock from 8 to 12 trainees.

4.5 The estimated cost of refurbishment of the identified facility is £78,450 and the proposed sources of funding are as follows:

	£
North Social Inclusion Initiative	28,450
Working for Families Fund	28,000 (confirmed)
European Regional Development Fund	20,000 (confirmed)
East Ayrshire Council	<u>2,000</u>
Total	78,450

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As reported at Agenda Item 2, the balance of funds available for allocation from the North Social Inclusion Challenge Fund is £50,350. The total funding requested from the proposals contained with this report at sections 2, 3 and 4 is £50,350. If fully supported, this would ensure a full spend of the Challenge Fund in 2004/05.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The North Social Inclusion Initiative Board is asked to:

- i) note the development of the 'Carers Cottage' facility in the north of East Ayrshire;
- ii) agree to support the funding proposals identified at 2.5 for £12,000 to part fund the refurbishment of the 'Carers' Cottage'; at 3.4 to allocate £9,900 to support the Future Steps Project; and at 4.5 to award £28,450 to part fund the establishment of a project base for CONDUIT in the centre of Kilmarnock;
- iii) note the development of the 'Working for Families Fund', which is funded by the Scottish Executive; and
- iv) otherwise note the content of the report.

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2 November 2004