



Media Release

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 2.45PM, 18TH APRIL
2007**

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AT 2.45pm, GRANSHA
SOCIAL CLUB, WEDNESDAY 18TH APRIL 2007**

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE STAFF GIVE GENEROUSLY

In a ceremony in Gransha Social Club this week, Joe Lusby, Deputy Chief Executive of the Western Health & Social Care Trust, presented cheques totalling £50,000 to 39 local and overseas community, voluntary and charitable organizations. The money was raised by voluntary deductions of £1 per month from participating staff as part of a 'Youth Forum Lottery Scheme' that was set up by health service staff in 1994.

The Scheme was initially established to raise funds to buy a minibus for a psychiatric hospital in Zimbabwe, a project that the Western Health Board had close links with at that time. The Scheme continued after the minibus had been purchased and, initially, all money raised went directly to Third World charities. In 2001 the Scheme extended its remit to cover local groups and, since then, has donated £135,000 to a range of local charities and voluntary groups, including this week's allocation of £50,000.

Speaking about the event, Mr. Lusby said:

“I am delighted to have been asked to officiate at this important and worthwhile event. Health and Social Care staff spend their working lives helping and caring for people and this is a further manifestation of the care ethos of our Service,” he said. “It is also recognition of the value our staff place on the vital support provided to communities by voluntary and community organizations, both locally and overseas. Staff who have participated in the Youth Lottery Scheme, and those who have been involved in administering it over the years, should feel proud of their involvement in a Scheme which has undoubtedly helped so many people,” he added.

ENDS

17th April 2007

Provided by the Communications Department, phone 71611429