

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services

Health Improvement & Social Justice Partnership: 17 May 2006

Subject: Honorary Degree Awarded to Thomas Gorman

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Council that the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts was conferred on Tommy Gorman, Team Leader, Welfare Rights Representation Unit on 24 March 2006, by the University of Stirling, in recognition of his long and outstanding contribution to promoting the health of vulnerable individuals and communities faced by the disease of mesothelioma.

2. Background

- 2.1 Tommy has a long history of activity and advocacy with regard to health and community work and in recent years has been involved throughout Scotland dealing with welfare rights, advising, supporting and representing those with chronic illnesses
- 2.2 The Honorary Degree of Master of Arts (MA) is awarded to individuals who have rendered long and meritorious service to the University or who have made an outstanding contribution to the community. In his presentation to the awards ceremony Professor Andrew Watterson, internationally acknowledged occupational health expert paid tribute to Tommy's work with West Dunbartonshire Council and the COSLA Working Group on Asbestos, his contribution to many research projects and publications including *Clydebank: asbestos the unwanted legacy*.
- 2.3 He also mentioned the pioneering contribution made by Clydebank Asbestos Group, the Council and other partner organisations, including NHS Greater Glasgow to place occupational health high on the political agenda in the UK and internationally through events like the recent International Asbestos Conference held in Clydebank Town Hall. The event brought together asbestos victim support groups and bereaved families, occupational health experts foreign diplomats, trade unions, social work services, local and national politicians, lawyers, welfare rights organisations and palliative care specialists from across the world.

3. Personnel Issues

3.1 There are no personnel implications.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications

5. Recommendations

5.1 The Partnership is asked to recognise this important contribution and congratulate Tommy Gorman on the award of Honorary Degree of Master of Arts and his contribution to the work of Social Work Services.

William W. Clark
Acting Director of Social Work Services

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Background papers: There are no background papers.

Wards Affected: No wards are affected.