

ANGUS COUNCIL**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE15 April 1997****COMMUNITY CARE PLANS: DIRECTIONS ON INFORMATION****JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LAW & ADMINISTRATION AND
THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK****ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the recently issued Directions on Information (Community Care) from the Scottish Office. A copy of the Directions is attached to this report. This report also outlines the implications of the directions.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:-

1. notes the contents of this report and the implications of the directions for future community care plans.
2. instructs the Director of Social Work to bring a detailed briefing and a proposed response to this direction from the secretary of state to the next meeting of the Social Work Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

The letter from the Social Work Services Group (SWSG) which accompanies the Directions on Information provides some background information in relation to the new directions. The relevance of the directions are located in the requirement for local authorities to prepare and publish community care plans; consult on the plans or revisions to plans; and the need to comply with the directions on purchasing.

The directions on purchasing require local authorities to outline details of their proposals to purchase services from independent sector providers and of the services they propose to provide themselves.

3. DIRECTIONS ON INFORMATION

In issuing the new Directions on Information the Scottish Office locate them in the planning of services for older people due to significant social work expenditure in this area.

The Scottish Office notes that recent analyses in their opinion have shown that Councils are able to make better use of their resources if the proportion of residential care (particularly older people) which they purchase from the independent sector is increased.

As such the directions require the social work department to make information on the costs of residential care for older people available to the Social Work Committee to allow a comparison of the cost to the Council of caring for people in Council homes, with the cost to the Council if they were cared for in independent sector homes.

The directions require a table to be completed which will show the average gross cost to the Council per person per week in Council Homes and independent sector homes.

It is expected that the information should take account of redundancy or T.U.P.E. issues in order to provide an accurate picture of the possible savings which could be made.

It is noted that the information in tabular form should be presented to the Social Work Committee when it is considering general resourcing of residential care of older people and to the Finance Committee when Social Work Expenditure is on the agenda. This information should also be circulated to interested parties at the Councils discretion, and made available on request at Council Offices.

It should be noted that the directions come into effect immediately however following discussion our opinion is that having set the budget for 1997/98 and having initiated consultation on the Community Care Plan the Council will only be in a position to comply with the directions at the point of preparing the 1998/99 budget and in the first review of the Community Care plan.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6. CONCLUSION

Members are asked to note the tenor of these directions and the explicit expectation which is held by the Scottish Office in relation to the purchasing of residential care for older people.

The directions are summarised in this report and it should be noted that they should be complied with during this financial year as we plan the budget for 1998/99.

W B Robertson
Director of Social Work

Note: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

