

ANGUS COUNCIL**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE14 JANUARY 1997****10 DOOCOT PARK, HOSPITALFIELD,
ARBROATH****REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK****ABSTRACT**

This report advises the Social Work Committee of the development of a small scale residential facility in Arbroath by Gowrie Housing Association in partnership with the Social Work Department, Tayside Health Board, Angus NHS Trust and Dundee Healthcare NHS Trust.

Members of the Social Work Committee are also referred to the following two reports to this Committee: 1. by the Department of Law and Administration on an application by Gowrie Housing Association for registration of the Doocot Park Project; 2. By the Registration and Inspection Unit of the Social Work Department on specifically developed standards against which residential projects for adults with learning disabilities and/or physical disabilities will be inspected.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:

- a) Notes and approves the plans for the continued development of the Doocot Park Project.
- b) Instructs the Director of Social Work to commission this development in partnership with the other agencies involved.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Revised Community Care Action Plan for Angus (Community Care Plan 1994-1997, Tayside Regional Council and Tayside Health Board), notes that the policy for the future commissioning of health service continuing care is based on the recognition that there is scope for shifting the balance of care from within hospital to care within the community.

The shift is towards creating new places in the community with the appropriate supporting infrastructure, balanced by reductions in the numbers of health service continuing places. In planning alternative provision, the priority is towards ensuring suitable community based accommodation with support is in place before change is effected.

In line with this policy, Section 3 of the Community Care Plan (P. 67) notes the intention to progress the development of a 4-person supported accommodation project in Arbroath.

3. THE DOOCOT PARK PROJECT

This exciting new development is a small purpose-built house for four people with severe and profound learning disabilities, located within a general housing development in Arbroath.

The project was originally commissioned from Gowrie Housing Association by the Mental Health Unit of Tayside Health Board prior to the creation of NHS Trusts. By the time the building work was completed, the introduction of community care legislation, including the new financial mechanisms to pay for residential care, meant it was no longer considered appropriate for the by-then Dundee Healthcare NHS Trust to operate the unit as a residential establishment.

As a consequence, Gowrie Housing Association applied for registration by the local authority (Tayside Regional Council) to operate the project as a residential care home.

Prior to progressing the application for registration, considerable work was undertaken by all the agencies involved to develop the practice framework of the project to ensure that it complied with registration criteria. This included the Department of Law and Administration taking legal advice from senior counsel in Edinburgh, on behalf of the Social Work Department, Tayside Health Board and Gowrie Housing Association on the application of relevant statutes to the project.

Based on the response received from senior counsel and after further discussion involving all the relevant partners, it has been agreed to progress the project as a registered residential establishment.

4. THE MODEL OF CARE

The housing and social care services required by the residents will be provided by Gowrie Housing Association within the Social Work Department's Service Agreement structure. A detailed service specification has been prepared which establishes a model of service based on normalisation principles. The agreement includes the provision of transport to ensure that residents can access the whole range of community resources.

Within this model of service, the residents will be expected to have the same level of community presence as other people; be allowed to make choices in their everyday lives; to develop as individuals; be accorded the same degree of respect as other people and to participate, as appropriate, in mainstream community activities and services.

Day service provision has been allocated within the special care unit of Lochlands adult resource centre where individual development plans will be implemented. The service users will not, however, attend the centre five days a week as there is an expectation that part of their week will be spent in other community facilities, for example, swimming.

In common with other people in the community, the health care needs of the residents will be met and co-ordinated by the primary health care team with additional supports from other specialist health services including the Learning Disabilities Nursing Service and the District Nursing Service. Considerable work has already been completed drafting closely co-ordinated and complimentary residential, day and health care plans which clearly identify the roles, tasks and responsibilities of all the agencies involved.

Any routine health care tasks will be carried out within the special care unit by the relevant health care specialist. This development is in keeping with the joint social work / health strategy of developing day services for adults with learning disabilities within a resource centre model.

In acknowledgement of the innovative nature of the project, additional steps have been taken to ensure the highest standards of practice are delivered to and within the project. As well as the detailed service specification noted above, this includes the drafting by Tayside Health Board of a set of standards for the provision of community health services to this type of unit and, a full evaluation of the project strategy, commissioned from the Psychology Unit of Dundee Healthcare NHS Trust.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Doocot Park Project will be jointly funded by the Social Work Department and Tayside Health Board from within resource transfer monies.

5. CONSULTATION

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

6. CONCLUSION

This report has been prepared to advise members of the background to and plans for the continued development of, a small scale housing association residential facility in Arbroath.

DATE

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 the above report.