

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	18 April 2000
EDUCATION COMMITTEE	25 April 2000
PERSONNEL & PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE..	2 May 2000
FINANCE & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE	2 May 2000

THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEVELOPMENT FUND
ADDITIONAL FUNDING

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL WORK, EDUCATION
AND PERSONNEL

ABSTRACT

This report informs social work and education committees of additional funding provided to Angus Council for social work services through the Children's Services Development Fund and seeks approval for proposals for the use of this additional funding.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee

- 1 Approves the developments described in this report.
- 2 Approves the virement proposals contained in Appendix 2.

It is recommended that the Education Committee

- 1 Approves the developments described in this report.

It is recommended that the Personnel & Property Services Committee approves the establishment of the following posts

- 1 1 Residential Care Worker, SCP 16-37.
- 2 0.5 Senior Clerical Assistant, GS3.

It is recommended that the Finance & Information Technology Committee

- 1 Approves the virement proposals contained in Appendix 2 which allocates the additional funding to appropriate budget headings.

1 INTRODUCTION

Members of the social work and education committees are referred to Reports No 402/99 and 966/99 which outlined proposals for the use of the Children's Services Development Fund.

Members are also referred to Report Number 259/00 establishing the MAP Project under the auspices of the Excellence Fund and Report Number 245/00 on the restructuring of the adoption and fostering panels in Angus.

The Children's Services Development Fund allocation for Angus Council amounted to a total of £135,008 in 1999-2000. This sum was broken down as follows:

- a) £32,282 – to increase community based placements for looked after children ie to improve and promote the foster care service
- b) £58,695 – to implement recommendations from the Kent Report, primarily promoting outcomes for children looked after away from home and advocacy services for such children and young people.
- c) £44,031 – to promote early intervention and preventative services.

Proposals for the use of this funding were presented to Committees in April 1999 and October 1999.

In January 2000 the Scottish Executive announced an additional £3.3m for local authorities under the Children Service Development Fund. The allocation to Angus Council being £47,000.

1 PROPOSALS FOR THE USE OF THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING

A key objective for the use of the Children's Services Development Fund is that of promoting the outcomes for looked after children. In line with this objective it is proposed to establish a residential care worker post to be associated with the newly established MAP project providing a local alternative to residential education for children aged 12-14 years. Promoting educational opportunities for looked after children and young people is key to promoting the social inclusion of this vulnerable group of children.

A further key objective for use of the Children's Services Development Fund is the development of foster care resources. Members will be

aware of the restructuring of the adoption and fostering panels to cater for an increase in work in this area. This has resulted in a significant increase in the administrative work to service the new structure. It is therefore proposed to establish a part time senior clerical assistant post to meet this additional need.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the use of the remaining balance of the additional funding.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Details of the financial implications can be found in Appendix 1 with the related virement proposals in Appendix 2. Allowance has been made in the social work department's revenue budget for this development, using money allocated by the Scottish Executive as part of the comprehensive spending review.

These developments will be phased in during financial year 2000-2001, taking account of other strategic and structural changes that are planned within the social work department. The full year costs are contained in Appendix 1. The initial commitments are set out in the virement proposals contained in Appendix 2. The financial implications will be monitored and any vacancies will be reported to the Social Work Committee as part of the regular financial monitoring arrangements.

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 details proposals for the use of additional funding provided for social work services under the Children's Services Development Fund. The identified proposals will meet identified needs and help promote the development of the fostercare service and improve outcomes for children looked after by Angus Council.

J Torbet
Director of Personnel

J Anderson
Director of Education

W B Robertson
Director of Social Work

11 April 2000

NOTE

The following 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 a material extent in preparing this report.

APPENDIX 1

Cost implications

	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Full Year Cost</u> £
Community Resources Team		
1.0 Residential Care Worker	SCP 16-37	27,529
Transport costs		2,000
Planning & Commissioning Team		
0.5 Senior Clerical Assistant	GS3	7,017
Balance of additional funding		10,454
TOTAL		47,000

Virement proposals

Vire from		£
Child Community - Community Resources	Third party payments	35,000
TOTAL		35,000

Vire to		£
Child Community - Community resources	Staff costs	27,529
Child Community - Community resources	Transport	1,500
SSMSS - Strategic Planning & commissioning	Staff costs	5,971
TOTAL		35,000