

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

9 OCTOBER 2003

ANNUAL REPORT ON VOLUNTEERING IN SOCIAL WORK

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH LIAISON

ABSTRACT

This Committee report brings to the attention of Committee the production of the Social Work Departments Annual Report on Volunteering in Social Work. The annual report highlights the role of volunteers in social work. It identifies the significant increase in requests for volunteers and the number of new volunteers supporting service users in the community. [The annual report is appended to this Committee report.](#)

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health committee:-

- I. notes the extent of volunteering with social work service users;
- II. supports the continued development of the role of volunteers with social work service users;
- III. instructs the Director of Social Work and Health Liaison to bring forward further annual reports on volunteering matters.

2 INTRODUCTION

Social work has promoted and supported the role of volunteers with social work service users for many years. Volunteers support service users in many ways ranging from transport to befriending. At present social work volunteers are recruited through a service commissioned from the Volunteer Centre Angus and undergo a process of selection, disclosure checks and pre-volunteering induction to ensure that they are suitable and able to undertake volunteering tasks. New opportunities for volunteering are developed within the department each year.

The Annual Report notes that in 2002-2003 volunteer numbers remained high with individual volunteers contributing more time than ever before. In particular it is noted that volunteer drivers have taken on more transport with over 340,000 miles covered in 2002-2003.

3 DEVELOPING VOLUNTEERING

It is proposed to continue to promote the role of volunteers in supporting social work service users in the community. Further, opportunities will be explored to expand volunteering to other areas of social work.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising as a result from the recommendations contained in this report.

6 CONSULTATION

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

7 CONCLUSION

This report highlights the important and valuable role volunteers play in the provision of social work services.

The past year has seen a record level of commitment from volunteers. It is important that the social work department recognises this and further develops the systems it has in place to support those volunteers who provide services on its behalf.

R Peat
Director of Social Work and Health Liaison

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.