

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK & HEALTH COMMITTEE.....20 NOVEMBER 2003
RESOURCES & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE.....4 DECEMBER 2003

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT REVENUE BUDGET 2003-04 VIREMENT PROPOSALS

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH LIAISON AND THE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

ABSTRACT

This report advises members of virement proposals for the social work department's budget for 2003-04.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Social Work & Health Committee and Resources & Central Services Committee approve the virement proposals detailed in this report.

2 INTRODUCTION

As part of the regular budget monitoring arrangements within the social work department, the Director of Social Work and Health Liaison has identified areas within the revenue budget where corrective virement is required. In line with the Council's Financial Regulations the virement proposals require committee approval before they can be reflected in the department's revenue budget.

3 PROPOSAL

a) Free Personal Care

The use of the funding allocated for the introduction of Free Personal Care has been reported to the Social Work and Health Committee on a number of occasions (committee reports 445/02; 1162/02; 1354/02; 1358/02 and 249/03). The one area where the impact of Free Personal Care has been difficult to gauge is the loss of non-residential income. Based on the period since its implementation in July 2002, it is now possible to assess the value of lost income, and to seek approval for virement of the remaining funding.

Initially it was estimated that £360,000 of income would be lost as a consequence of the removal of personal care services from the charging regime. The current assessment indicates that the actual loss of income will be closer to £400,000 per annum.

It is proposed that the sum of £359,000 remaining in the Free Personal Care allocation be vired to reduce the income target for non-residential care.

The remaining £40,000 of projected lost income is addressed below.

b) Other Social Work services

As a result of budget monitoring the following virements are proposed.

	Virement to £'000	Virement from £'000
Loss of non-residential income due to free Personal Care	40	
Residential & Nursing Home: Commissioning Budgets To reflect the management structure within the department and take account of patterns of demand, the following adjustments are proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older People • Learning Disabilities • Physical Disabilities • Adult Mental Health 	750	50 500 30
Residential and Nursing Homes: Income Targets To reflect patterns of income recovery, the following adjustments are proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older People • Learning Disabilities • Physical Disabilities • Adult Mental Health 	30	700 180 100
SENSE project at Lentlands Road, Forfar A budget needs to be established for this new project	75	
Fostering Allowances This budget has regularly been overspent, due to the number of placements that have been sustained.	180	
Occupational Therapy Aids This budget has regularly been overspent, due to demand.	180	
Residential Schools The demand-led nature of this budget means that it is continually under pressure. The proposed virement will give some scope for additional placement activity in the coming months. The Directors of Social Work and Health Liaison and Education are currently reviewing activity and trends in this area.	100	
Direct Payments It is proposed to establish a separate budget, under the control of the Director, to address any increase in demand for Direct Payments. £40,000 of this amount will be used to address the projected overspend on this budget. It should also be noted that the commissioning of a support service for Direct Payments users will be funded from this allocation.	205	
TOTALS	1,560	1,560

Given the structural nature of the virement proposals listed above, it is further proposed that the Director of Social Work and Health Liaison amend the base budget submission for 2004-05 to reflect these changes on a permanent basis.

c) Inter-departmental virement – Adaptations budget

As a result of changes in procedures for adaptation grants for private properties, it is proposed to vire the Social Work element of this budget to Planning & Transport. This will mean that Planning and Transport will be responsible for all of the grants in this area, which will streamline the process. Social Work will still be involved in the assessment process.

It is proposed that the sum of £56,000 be vired from the Social Work budget on a permanent basis from 2004-05– based on an average of the expenditure in the last three years.

In 2003-04, it is proposed that £28,000 be vired, to reflect the part-year effect, given that the new procedures came into effect in October 2003.

4 OTHER REVENUE BUDGET ISSUES

There is one major area of the budget where it is not possible to assess the impact in the current financial year. This is in relation to Supporting People. Angus Council – and all other local authorities in Scotland – has still not received confirmation of the grant that will be available for the current financial year. While it is not anticipated that there will be any adverse budgetary pressure, it is difficult to monitor the budget.

Specifically in relation to services provided by Social Work, there will be significant implications for existing services, service developments and the amount of resource transfer that is provided by Tayside Health.

Given that Social Work has lead responsibility for administering this initiative for Angus Council, the Director of Social Work and Health will prepare update reports for the relevant committees when there is clarity about the funding position.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The virement proposals arising from monitoring the Social Work budget are cost neutral.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

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

8 CONCLUSION

The proposals contained in this report arise from monitoring a complex budget to provide a range of essential services to Social Work clients.

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D S Sawers
Director of Finance

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.