

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE.....5 JUNE 2003
HOUSING COMMITTEE.....5 JUNE 2003

SHORT-BREAKS FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

JOINT REPORT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK
AND THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

This report seeks Committee approval to work in partnership with housing in order to secure a local authority tenancy which would be used as "stand alone" short-break facility for people with a learning disability.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- i) notes the contents of this report;
- ii) approves working in partnership with housing to rent a property which will be used exclusively for short-breaks;
- iii) approves the establishment of one Senior Social Care Officer post at 30 hours per week (SCP 27-30) and of ten Social Care Officer posts, each to provide 230 hours of care on an annualised basis (SCP 16-23).

2 INTRODUCTION

The National Review of learning disability services in Scotland was published in May 2000. Members were advised about this report in Report No 993/00 and about the contents of our local agreement to develop services in line with national priorities, in Report No 881/01.

The Scottish Executive recommended the introduction of short-break services in "The Same as You?". The recommendation stated a short-break was from 1 – 72 hours and would offer service users and their carers a flexible responsive service which could happen in their own home or in a residential/nursing home or in "stand alone" respite facilities.

The Executive is now recommending that short-breaks should not happen in residential or nursing homes as this is simply a traditional respite service.

In Angus, a short-break service has been established for approximately two years, with funding identified from learning disability change funds and Carers Strategy monies (Committee approved the allocation of carers strategy resources in Report No 633/01). The service is currently free to service users but they are liable for meals and overnight charges if they stay in one of the learning disability units in Montrose and Forfar.

The current short-break is provided by staff who are employed by either social work or by the voluntary sector and who are included in a bank of staff who can be

available to support a short-break. The short-break can be provided in the carers home but the concept of people having a short-break at home has not had a good response as service users and their carers usually ask for a break away from home. At the present time there are no facilities to offer this service and the service is not achieving its full potential.

3 PROPOSAL TO FURTHER DEVELOP SHORT BREAK SERVICES

It is proposed to rent a two bedroom local authority property in Arbroath and use this to offer short-breaks throughout the day and also overnight.

The property would be ground floor with level access throughout but would only be suitable for ambulant people. It would be situated within general, mixed family housing stock in order to promote inclusion and offer a family style accommodation. Items relating to office environments (e.g. filing cabinets etc) would be kept to a minimum.

The short-break service will be organised and managed by the senior social care office, who will be responsible for the management and support of the social care officers. The establishment of the social care officers posts will provide dedicated support hours on an annualised basis so that short-breaks can be offered in the most flexible way to meet the agreed needs of carers and service users.

The short break would be based within the tenancy in Arbroath, with social care officers providing the care and support required by the individual service users.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The on-going housing and staffing support costs would be met from within the existing departmental revenue budget.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

This development will extend services in line with the duty social work has to support family life in line with Article 8 of the Human Rights Act.

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.

The Personnel Services Manager has been consulted, and is in agreement with, the staffing proposals contained in this report.

7 CONCLUSION

The acquisition of a local authority house would allow short-break service to develop in an inclusive way and in line with the principals and values of the National Review of Learning Disability Services.

Robert Peat
Acting 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.

SHORT BREAKS

APPENDIX 1

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

<u>DISABILITIES (LEARNING)</u>	2003/04 (6mths) £	2004/05 (Full year) £
<u>Learning Community</u>		
<u>Lunan Park Day Care</u>		
Staff costs:		
Establishment of Senior Social Care Officer SCP 27-30 (mid-point SCP 28) - 30 hours per week	10,524	21,862
Establishment of Social Care Officers x 10 - SCP 16-23 (mid-point SCP19) 230 hrs each - 0.11 (FTE)	10,215	20,990
Travel and Subsistence	500	1,000
Supplies and Services	4,000	8,000
Third Party Payments		
Income		
Sub Total	25,239	51,852
One-off set up costs	Continuation of current arrangements: 26,614	
	51,852	51,852
Funding: Partnership in Practice Change Fund	32,000	32,000
Carers Strategy	19,852	19,852
	51,852	51,852
Potential shortfall/(slippage)	0	0

Assumptions

04/05 Costs - yearly increment included here