

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE 21 AUGUST 2003**

**THE INTRODUCTION OF A MONEY ADVICE SELF-HELP PACK**

**REPORT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

**ABSTRACT**

This report advises members of the introduction of a Money Advice Self-Help Pack, a guide for those experiencing problems with debt.

**1 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:

1. notes the contents of this report
2. welcomes the introduction of the money advice self-help pack.
3. welcomes the joint working arrangement between Angus Council Social Work Welfare Rights, Angus Citizens Advice Bureau and Angus Money Advice Service.

**2 THE MONEY ADVICE SELF-HELP PACK**

Members will be aware of the problems experienced by their constituents facing multiple debts. In response to this growing problem the welfare rights team has initiated a joint working arrangement with Angus Citizens Advice Bureau and Angus Money Advice Service to produce a Money Advice Self-Help Pack.

The self-help pack contains advice and information on how to deal with debt in a systematic way and provides details of how to get further advice where necessary.

The welfare rights team is continually reviewing the services it provides to its customers. Service improvements are an on-going process and the self-help pack is another of these improvements.

It is planned to make the pack available through the Angus Council Access Line and the partner agencies i.e. welfare rights, Angus CAB and Angus Money Advice Service. It is envisaged that the self-help pack will be available via the Angus Council Intranet service in the near future, which will provide access throughout the Council. A copy of the pack is enclosed with this report.

**3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost associated with the production of this pack will be contained within the existing welfare rights budget.

#### **4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **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**

The welfare rights team is constantly reviewing its service delivery in order to make improvements. The partnership working arrangement which resulted in the production of this self-help pack is a further improvement. The pack will allow citizens who feel able to deal with their debt problems with the minimum of advice, the opportunity to do so.

R 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.