

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

21 AUGUST 2003

ESTABLISHMENT OF HOUSING SUPPORT TEAM IN ANGUS

REPORT BY THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

ABSTRACT

This report seeks committee approval to establish Housing Support Worker posts and a Housing Support Co-ordinator post in Angus. These posts will span all service areas in Community Care within social work, enabling housing support to be provided on the basis of assessed need, thereby helping to maintain service users in their own homes. Enhancing the independence of vulnerable people is a key aim of the 'Supporting People' policy.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- i) notes the contents and agree to the terms of this report;
- ii) approves the establishment of 8 posts of Housing Support Worker GS3 (SCP13-15) each for 24 hours per week;
- iii) approves the establishment of 1 post of Housing Support Co-ordinator AP2 (SCP19 - 22) for 30 hours per week;

2 BACKGROUND

Following the introduction of Transitional Housing Benefit in April 2000, considerable work was undertaken in Angus to assess the need for housing support across the Council area and across all client groups. This process allowed for a substantial transfer of resources to be made to Angus Council through the Supporting People policy, which came into force in April 2003.

This policy was seen by the Scottish Executive as being closely linked with the single shared assessment strategy – 'creative and flexible support services are needed to address particular needs, to link people to appropriate services and to respond to peoples needs over time' requiring 'the provision of housing support to integrate with the single shared assessment process' (Minimum Core Data Set no 2 Individual Needs Assessment – October 2002).

It was a requirement that housing support arrangements should be in place, prior to April 2003, to enable the Executive to determine the required level of resource transfer. In Angus this was achieved by a number of means, including: specialised housing support

projects in adult mental health and disability services; redesignation of some home care services; commissioning of housing support through a range of voluntary agencies including Richmond Fellowship, Scottish Association for Mental Health and Real Life Options and by offering additional hours to existing social care and support staff in the different service areas.

3 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH HOUSING SUPPORT POSTS

The services commissioned and provided by Angus Council so far have made a substantial contribution to supporting people with mental health problems, disabilities, drug and alcohol problems, problems of old age and young vulnerable people to live more independently, through the provision of high levels of social support in their own homes.

In some cases needs have been identified but a service was not in place at the 1st April 2003 thus there is no support arrangements in place and in other cases the support is being provided on a short term basis by staff who have been diverted from other responsibilities or who are working additional hours. In addition there are new referrals being assessed on an ongoing basis where there is a requirement for flexible housing support.

This proposal aims first and foremost to meet the needs already identified, but not provided for, or only provided on a short term basis as described. It is proposed that the eight housing support worker posts will be for 24 hours per week and that these will be adequate to cover the current identified need for 150 hours housing support across Angus. A co-ordinator post of 30 hours will be required to ensure adequate supervision, monitoring, induction and to organise and to arrange rotas. The needs identified include evening and weekend hours and it is therefore proposed that the post holders should work flexible hours. It is envisaged that the team will be managed within the supporting people resource pot through the Home Care Services.

In the longer term it is envisaged that this service can be utilised for newly identified need. A clear referral and allocation policy will be established to ensure maximum use of the available hours.

If additional resources become available for housing support there is potential for expansion of the service, from a baseline of activity, established by means of this proposal. Similarly there are substantial resources commissioned from elsewhere as stated above, which are subject to a formal review in October, at which point it might be agreed that Angus Council would be a more appropriate provider.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the proposals outlined in this report will amount to £99,000 per annum. This will be funded from the authority's Supporting People commissioning "pot" under the terms of a Service Level Agreement.

Details of the financial implications attached to this report are contained in Appendix 1

5 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising 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.

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

7 CONCLUSION

The proposals contained within this report will enhance the ability of Angus Council Social Work to provide flexible home based support to assist people to maintain their homes, live independently and participate in their local community. The initial proposal will consolidate and formalise existing activity and allow provision of further housing support where that need has been identified. Potentially this proposal will lead to high quality housing support service being provided by Social work on a wider scale. This will enable better targeting, monitoring and development of the service in line with current policies such as Joint Futures, Supporting People and the pending Mental Health (Care and Treatment) Act which puts a great emphasis on the need to provide high quality community support to those subject to measures under the Act.

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.

HOUSING SUPPORT TEAM**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

	2003/04
<u>COMMUNITY CARE</u>	£'s
<u>Older People - Community</u>	
<u>Home Care Services</u>	
Staff costs:	
- Establishment of 8 Housing Support Workers (24 hpw) : GS3 - SCP 13-15 (lower-point SCP 13)	79,888
- Establishment of 1 Housing Support Co-ordinator (30 hpw): AP2 - SCP 19-22 (lower-point SCP 19)	14,446
Property Costs	Posts initially based in Brechin NIL
Travel and Subsistence	5,000
Supplies and Services	
Third Party Payments	
Income	
Sub Total	99,334
One-off set up costs	
	<u>99,334</u>
Funding: Supporting People Commissioning Pot	99,334
	<u>99,334</u>
Potential shortfall/(surplus)	<u>0</u>