

ANGUS COUNCIL

**Housing Committee - 18 November 2004
Education Committee – 13th January 2005**

**PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR JOINT INITIATIVE BETWEEN
CSV SCOTLAND AND ANGUS COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

REPORT by DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval to allocate a two-bedroom property to the Education Department to enable joint initiative with CSV Scotland to be undertaken.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee considers the contents of this report and authorises the lease of a suitable property to the Education Department.

2. BACKGROUND

Angus Council Education Department has been approached by Community Service Volunteers Scotland, regarding the possibility of a joint initiative aimed at supporting vulnerable young people in Angus. Initially the project would be for three volunteers each of whom would be allocated to a Secondary School based on identified needs. The target group of young people are these at high risk of exclusion from secondary school and likely to offend in the community.

It is expected that the project will make a positive contribution to a number of objectives identified in the Housing Department Service Plan 2003-2007.

The Review of Homelessness 2004 highlighted a growing trend in the number of young people aged 16 to 18 becoming homeless in Angus each year. In the majority of cases homelessness results from a breakdown in relationships with parents or family. Young people with challenging behaviour may be more at risk of homelessness as a result of breakdown in their relationship with their parents. By providing support to young people with challenging behaviour the project may assist in reducing youth homelessness.

The Review also highlighted the significant proportion of households who become homeless as a result of suffering harassment or anti-social behaviour. While only a proportion of anti-social behaviour is attributable to young people, by helping to reduce offending by the target group, the project will make a significant contribution by reducing anti-social behaviour and its impact.

3. PROPOSAL

It is proposed that the Housing Department identify a two-bedroomed flat in Arbroath, Brechin or Forfar and lease it to the Education Department for an initial period of 12 months. The property would be let unfurnished and subject to standard rental charges. The Education Department would be responsible for obtaining any necessary planning consents required in connection with the change of use of the property.

At any time there are a number of vacant properties throughout some areas of Angus where there is a very low level of interest from customers on our waiting list. It is proposed that such a property in Arbroath, Brechin or Forfar be made available (subject to Scottish Ministers' consent) for the project.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Housing Department would gain the standard rental income for the duration of the lease, as the property selected would possibly remain unlet otherwise.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

It is considered that following the recommendation in this report, the Council would not be acting in any way which is incompatible with Human Rights.

6. CONSULTATION

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

7. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Committee agree to the lease of a suitable two-bedroomed property to the Education Department.

Ron Ashton
Director of Housing

Note:- The following background paper, as defined by Section 50d of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), was relied upon to a material extent in preparing this report.

Housing Committee Report no. 429/04 – Review of the Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008