

DRAFT

ANGUS COUNCIL

Housing Committee – 26 February 2004

SAFE AS HOUSES EVALUATION OCTOBER 2001 TO MARCH 2003

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of the Safe as Houses project.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that members note the contents of this report and attached appendix.

2. BACKGROUND

Safe as Houses was first developed in Angus as a result of discussions between Tayside Police, Angus Care and Repair and Angus Council in 1999.

In October 2000 with the support of the above partners and Tayside Fire Brigade the pilot initiative was launched. Initially Forfar, Kirriemuir and Brechin were targeted to pilot the initiative.

The success of Safe as Houses soon became apparent and an application was made to the Scottish Executive to provide grant funding to extend the service across the whole of Angus. With this successful funding application Angus Care and Repair were able to appoint a dedicated worker to carry out the installations of the packs recommended by the Police. In early 2002 it was agreed to expand the service to all towns of Angus and surrounding landward areas.

During the period of this evaluation 370 households received assistance from the Safe as Houses service.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications have been identified as a result of the recommendations in this report.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

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

6. CONSULTATION

In preparing this report there has been consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Law and Administration and Director of Social Work and Health Liaison.

7. CONCLUSION

This report demonstrates that following the expansion of the Safe as Houses Scheme throughout the whole of Angus, it continues to be a successful service and meets the needs of many vulnerable people. The report shows that 99% of service users, during the period of the evaluation, regard the service as good or excellent and feel safer in their homes since receiving the pack and fittings provided by the Safe as Houses scheme. The service has also contributed to an overall reduction in housebreaking in Angus, and as a result there have been no repeat victims of crime.

Ron Ashton
Director of Housing

Note:- No background papers, as defined by Section 5DD of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied upon to any material extent in preparing this report.