

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE
 RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

24 AUGUST 2004
 9 SEPTEMBER 2004

PREMISES SHARED BY SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH AGENCIES

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

ABSTRACT

This report advises members of the arrangements that are in place for staff sharing premises.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- i. notes the arrangements that are currently in place and endorses these on an interim basis;
- ii. instructs the Director of Social Work and Health – in conjunction with the Directors of Finance and Property Services – to prepare proposals for addressing the issue of shared premises.

2 INTRODUCTION

In recent years there has been a considerable amount of joint working by staff employed by Angus Council Social Work and Tayside Health. This has increased recently with the implementation of the “Joint Future” agenda, which has resulted in staff from both agencies working in premises that are owned by the other partner. This report identifies the extent of such arrangements and proposes some interim principles that will apply.

Members will also be aware that plans are being developed to establish a joint headquarters building at Orchardbank, Forfar (committee report 1222/03 refers).

3 CURRENT POSITION

There are several premises across Angus where social work and health staff are co-located. These fall into three broad categories as outlined below.

Additional funding provided

In some cases (Gowanlea, Sunnyside, Strang Street and the Brechin Office) additional funding was made available through the Mental Health Strategy to cover running costs.

Angus Council Premises

	No of social work staff	No. of health staff
Gowanlea (health funded capital costs)	31	29
Strang Street	8	4
Brechin Office (health funded capital costs)	31	6

NHS Tayside Premises

	No. of social work staff	No. of health staff
Sunnyside	5	11

Use of existing premises (no additional funding)

In other cases we have adopted a *quid pro quo* approach within the context of partnership working – i.e. there are no arrangements to cross charge for rent etc. This position is based on the fact that the sharing of premises is in the best interests of the service, and there are no significant additional costs being borne by the host agency.

Angus Council Premises

	No. of social work staff	No. of health staff
Lunan Park	43	8
County Buildings	15	11
TOTAL	58	19

NHS Tayside Premises

	No. of social work staff per shift
Forfar Infirmary	12
Little Cairnie	3
Ashludie Hospital (number to be confirmed)	2
Montrose Infirmary	12
TOTAL	29

(Health staff numbers have not been shown. These premises are offices, within hospital setting, that are used exclusively by social work staff.)

Use of new premises (no additional funding)

A building has recently been leased by Angus Council (committee report 1104/03 refers) at Kingsmuir to accommodate some of the Joint Strategic Support Unit. Within this new office there are 23 Council staff and 14 NHS staff.

It is intended to charge health agencies for a share of the costs, since the lease of these premises is additional expenditure for Angus Council. Officers from Property Services are preparing an agreement to this effect.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The Social Work revenue budget contains provision for the additional costs associated with Kingsmuir (with an assumed level of income from health).

Given that the extension of joint working is likely to increase in future years, and consequently there will be further sharing of premises, the Joint Future Finance Officers' Group will prepare proposals for addressing the costs of shared premises. These proposals will be presented to the relevant committees of both agencies, to ensure that all corporate governance requirements are addressed.

5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 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, the Director of Finance and the Director of Property Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Relevant staff from NHS Tayside have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7 CONCLUSION

The extension of joint working has led to improvements in service delivery, however, it is now important that appropriate arrangements are prepared to ensure adequate governance controls are in place.

R Peat
Director of Social Work and Health

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.