ANGUS COUNCIL
SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE
22 MAY 2008
ANNUAL REPORT ON VOLUNTEERING IN SOCIAL WORK
REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH

ABSTRACT
This report highlights the production of the Social Work and Health Annual Report on Volunteering in Social Work. The annual report outlines the role of volunteers. It identifies the continuing increase in requests for volunteers and the number of new volunteers supporting service users in the community. The annual report is appended to this Committee report.

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

(i) notes the extent of volunteering with social work service users;
(ii) supports the continued development of the role of volunteers with social work service users.

2 INTRODUCTION
Social work has promoted and supported the role of volunteers with social work service users for a number of years. Volunteers support service users in many ways ranging from transport to befriending. At present social work volunteers are recruited through a service commissioned from the Volunteer Centre Angus and undergo a process of selection, disclosure checks and pre-volunteering induction to ensure that they are suitable and able to undertake volunteering tasks. The focus of the service over the past year has been to improve communication between volunteers, the service and staff and also to improve the matching of volunteers to opportunities which benefit service users. This has been achieved by the recruitment of a Volunteer Co-ordinator.

The Annual Report notes that in 2007/08 volunteer numbers remained high with individual volunteers contributing more time than ever before. In particular it is noted that volunteer drivers have taken on more transport with 780,629 miles covered in 2007/08. This is an increase of 5.5% on the 2006/07 mileage undertaken by volunteer drivers.

It is proposed to continue to promote the role of volunteers in supporting social work service users in the community.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

4 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS
There are no Human Rights implications arising as a result from the recommendations contained in this report.
5 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance and the Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6 CONCLUSION

This Social Work and Health report highlights the important and valuable role volunteers play in the provision of social work services.

The past year has seen the consistency of commitment from volunteers continue. It is important that Social Work and Health recognises this commitment and further reviews the systems it has in place to support those volunteers who provide services on its behalf.

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.