

## **11 HOSPITAL FUND AND JOHNSTON BEQUEST (AN208-2014)**

At its meeting on 14th January, 2013, approval was given to report no 452-2012 (Article VII of the minute of that meeting refers), when it was agreed to allocate £25,000 from the Hospital Fund and Johnston Bequest to pilot a targeted welfare benefit advice service for older people in the city.

After going through a formal procurement process, the funding was awarded to Citizens Advice Bureau Dundee for a 30 hours per week pilot service to run for 12 months from the day the service went live, 1st September, 2013. The first three months or so saw various trials with partners from the early discharge team at Ninewells Hospital and other agencies in the city dealing with older clients before settling into the current arrangement which tends to involve referrals from agencies, including the early discharge team, and involves home visits.

The pilot service has begun to show good results, and after allowing for the initial start up period, the period September, 2013 to March, 2014 generated additional income of £59,489.74, most coming in the second three month period. The period March to June, 2014 is anticipated to have generated a further £45,918.60. Indications are that if these levels continue, in a full year, the pilot project could generate up to £250,000 additional income.

As the start up period, when contacts and partnerships were being established, impacted on the 1st quarter outcomes, it is suggested that given the subsequent promising results it would be beneficial to extend the period of the pilot through to 31st March, 2015, at a cost of £12,500 which can be met from available funds in the Hospital Fund and Johnston Bequest. Subject to approval of this extension, a review of the outcomes will be carried out nearer the end of the extended pilot and a recommendation brought to the Committee on whether it should be continued on a long term basis after that review.