

2. CHOOSE LIFE (AN454-2005)

Proposals for the implementation of the Choose Life strategy were approved by the Social Work Committee on 16 February 2004 (Report No 150-2004). The report detailed Scottish Executive funding allocated specifically for the implementation of Choose Life in Dundee and highlighted that a sub group of Healthy Dundee has been established to oversee the ongoing development and implementation of the local suicide prevention strategy. Dundee was allocated £273,300 over 2003-2006 to support national and local suicide prevention action and, to date, £130,143 has been committed to fund local initiatives, which support the aims of Choose Life.

Discussions have been ongoing with Angus Council as to the possibility of appointing a Development Officer for Choose Life. Their remit would include:-

- taking the lead role in the implementation of the National Choose Life Policy Initiative and local suicide prevention strategies across Angus and Dundee;
- developing a training programme which raises public awareness and increases the skill base of those working with those affected by suicidal thoughts;
- co-ordinating both statutory and voluntary sector organisations contributions to suicide prevention.

Members of the Choose Life Steering Group in Dundee have approved funding to the level of £17,000 for this purpose. The post will be established within Angus Council and graded at PO1 Scale (£26,379-£28,632) and will be temporary up to March 2008.

The Committee is asked to approve release of the funding.