

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: RECESS SUB COMMITTEE - 1ST AUGUST 2011**

**REPORT ON: ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH COMPLEX NEEDS RELATED TO ALCOHOL USE**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

**REPORT NO: 343-2011**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to outline plans for procuring accommodation with support for ten individuals with complex needs related to alcohol use many of whom are currently in homeless accommodation

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Recess Sub-Committee:-

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report.
- 2.2 Instructs the Director of Social Work to procure accommodation with support for ten individuals as indicated in paragraph 4.9 of this report.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of the accommodation with support is anticipated to be £240,000 in a full financial year. Funding for this has been included in the Social Work Department's Revenue Budget 2011/12 as part of additional resources to reflect demographic pressures in adult services.

### **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

There are a number of individuals, currently ten, who are in homeless accommodation in Dundee who are unable to move on as no appropriate resources are available. These individuals have complex needs related to alcohol use and many of them have been in the homeless system for a number of years. They would not be able to manage a tenancy and have been assessed as requiring 24 hour support. As this type of resource has not been available to this point they have been unable to move on. This creates difficulties for the individuals themselves as they have no security of tenure and the resource is not appropriate to meet their needs and also problems for temporary accommodation which becomes blocked. It is proposed that accommodation with support is commissioned for these individuals.

- 4.1 One of the statutory duties of the local authority is to provide temporary homeless accommodation. The Scottish Government has put in place legislation to prevent and alleviate homelessness; tackling homelessness is a key part of fighting poverty and inequality in Scotland.

- 4.2 The Homelessness (Scotland) Act 2003 expanded the categories of priority need and those homeless people who are in priority need have the right to permanent accommodation. By 2012 every unintentionally homeless person will be entitled to permanent accommodation.
- 4.3 It is recognised that there has been a significant number of individuals who have been assessed as unintentionally homeless and in priority need, living in temporary accommodation for lengthy periods of time; often years. This was resulting in the homeless system becoming blocked and as a result it was more difficult for people to move through the system and many people were becoming increasingly institutionalised as a result. A multi-agency working group was formed in 2007 to look at an in-depth needs assessment to identify the numbers of people affected and their levels of need.
- 4.4 The group members gathered information using assessment tools from their particular disciplines, mainly following the criteria employed in gathering information for Single Shared Assessments. However for in-depth assessments, many of the clients attended the Independent Living Skills for Hostel Residents 12 week course. This course was especially useful to assess individuals who had been living in homeless hostel accommodation for several years and had little insight into their own abilities regarding independent living.
- 4.5 Forty-eight individuals were identified, each of whom had specific barriers to sustaining housing that required to be addressed prior to securing appropriate accommodation and considerable work has been undertaken to address these issues.
- 4.6 For some individuals this has involved identifying places within care homes or existing accommodation with support provision. For others there are now monitors and procedures in place with hostels to ensure assessments are carried out within appropriate timeframes, both for directing provision of services and in order to prevent institutionalisation of clients. In addition there are now closer working links with each of the homeless hostels, the Homeless Services Unit and the Homeless Health Outreach Team. The input of the Homeless Health Outreach Team has also proved useful.
- 4.7 For significant numbers of people the outcome of this work has been appropriate accommodation however the support requirements of people who have the most complex needs cannot be met under the current provision for accommodation within the City. Two such groups of people have been identified those with enduring mental health difficulties and those with complex alcohol misuse issues. There are currently twenty five such individuals.
- 4.8 As a result of the work undertaken and people moving more effectively through the homeless system it has been possible to redesignate 15 places in Hostel as permanent accommodation for people with mental health difficulties but a solution is required for the ten people with complex alcohol related issues.
- 4.9 It is proposed therefore that a resource is commissioned which will provide accommodation with twenty four hour support for these ten individuals. Based on benchmarking against current resources which offer a similar level of support the cost of this service is estimated at £240,000 which will be met from within existing social work resources.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and will be made available on the Council website <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/equanddiv/equimpact/>.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Finance and Director of Housing have been consulted in preparation of this report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Equality Impact Assessment.

Alan G Baird  
**Director of Social Work**

DATE: 20th July 2011