

REPORT TO : NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
– 11 June 2001

REPORT ON: “THE CORNER” YOUNG PEOPLE’S HEALTH AND INFORMATION PROJECT
FUTURE DIRECTION

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 368-2001

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To outline plans which will enable “The Corner” to establish a new organisational structure to maximise its potential as a major resource for young people.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to approve:

- 2.1 plans to retain the current Management structure at “The Corner” involving City Council staff from Neighbourhood Resources and Development and Education Departments in partnership with Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust;
- 2.2 the development of a new charity as an Unincorporated Association to be known as “Corner Connections” which would work in a complementary manner with the current Joint Management Group (see appendix 1);
- 2.3 the construction of a model constitution and approach the Inland Revenue in order to have the constitution approved as acceptable for recognition for charitable purposes;

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 “The Corner’s” integrated budget totals £435,511.00 and has four main funders:- Tayside Health Board, Dundee City Council, Social Inclusion Partnerships and Scottish Executive Innovative Fund (see appendix 2).
- 3.2 The work identified to create a new charity will be contained within “The Corner’s” integrated revenue budget for 2001/2002.
- 3.2 By establishing a new charity, “The Corner Partnership” would be able to access external funding from sources wider than Dundee City Council and Tayside Health Board eg, Lotteries Funds, Private Sector, Trusts.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 “The Corner” strives to maximise opportunities for young people to engage in cultural, educational and recreational opportunities.
- 4.2 The challenge of engaging positively with young people is significant in terms of gearing services to meet their needs and in involving them in sustainable approaches to health promotion.
- 4.3 Young people’s health and information needs are diverse and at times they are not consistent with local and national priorities. “The Corner” has balanced these competing priorities in a sensitive manner which values the role and expectations of all key stakeholders.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is inherent in the philosophy of “The Corner” that all young people will be treated with equal respect and offered equal opportunities.

- 5.2 "The Corner" is committed to the development of a positive policy to promote equal opportunities and combat discrimination, direct or indirect, in its management structure, employment practices and in its service to young people irrespective of gender, race, nationality, age, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, social background, geographical origin, religious belief or non relevant criminal conviction.
- 5.3 "The Corner" deals with many enquiries which result from young people's experiences of exclusion. These reasons can be as a result of a single issue or, more often than not, focused on a wide range of complex circumstances.
- 5.4 The integration of the Youth Advocacy Partnership, which received fixed term funding for the period 1999 to 2002, has made a significant contribution to supporting the Social Inclusion agenda. This includes offering an advocacy service, reaching out to young people in their territory and in channelling their views to strategic planning networks and mechanisms.
- 5.5 The diversity of "The Corner's" approaches to working with young people and the composition and skills of the multi-disciplinary staff team afford huge opportunities to reach out to young people who do not access services for a variety of reasons. Current initiatives which target young men living in hostel accommodation, minority ethnic communities, looked after young people, young people with special educational needs and learning disabilities can be extended with a robust partnership structure.
- 5.6 The city centre "Drop-in" has been fully operational for 5 years and is seen as a safe non-territorial venue which enables young people to be free of barriers which can exist between local communities. The ground rules for the use of the "Drop-in" have been created and refined in consultation with young people to minimise exclusion of individuals and/or groups.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 "The Corner" has developed a creative working partnership between Dundee City Council, Tayside Health Board, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust, The Scottish Executive and young people.
- 6.2 Following consultations in 1993/94 with young people in Dundee, the need was identified for health and information services which were exclusively for young people and were both informal and confidential. "The Corner" evolved from these consultations as a measured response. A wide range of consultations have been carried out which place "The Corner" in a strong position to respond to changing trends and the complexity of young people's lives.
- 6.3 The multi-agency partnership is committed to ensuring that services are relevant and "young people friendly" and that there is the flexibility to review and refine all the aspects of the project's work as part of an ongoing process. Young people have played a major role in shaping, designing and influencing the project's direction to date. This, combined with the quantitative and qualitative evaluation which is undertaken by Tayside Public Health Medicine Service, is seen as vital if "The Corner" is to continue to stay at the forefront of youth work practice.
- 6.4 There has been a concerted effort to target young people in transition years between primary and secondary schools. This has led to a significant increase in contact with this age group at the "Drop-in".
- 6.5 The city centre "Drop-in" has responded to almost 55,000 enquiries since March 1996. The level of enquiries has plateaued at approximately 1,000 per month. There are on average 175 new contacts each month.
- 6.6 The project's evaluation has confirmed that 1 in 3 young people within the main target (14-18 years) have used the "Drop-in" on at least one occasion.
- 6.7 Joint work with Barnardo's led to second place in the UK Community Care Awards in December 1999.
- 6.8 In October 2000 "The Corner" won the British Family Planning Association UK award for its sexual health work in the community section.
- 6.9 The high level of involvement of young people combined with the flexibility to refine and adapt services is a key feature of "The Corner's" success. An example of this is the pilot clinic which offers screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. It is currently thought to be the only community based Sexually Transmitted Infections Service for young people in Scotland.

- 6.10 The project has successfully targeted young people who live on the margins of society and who are socially excluded at a critical stage in their lives. Almost 50% of all contacts to the “Drop-in” are from Social Inclusion Partnership areas.
- 6.11 Over 100 agencies have referred young people to the project and, on many occasions, the project is a resource for other professional staff, both locally and nationally.
- 6.12 The project receives many requests to speak at conferences, and over 20,000 copies of the project’s Principles and Policies statement – “Challenging Myths – Working with Realities” have been circulated across Britain, Europe and the Commonwealth.
- 6.13 “The Corner” is recognised as being innovative on an international basis. This was confirmed when it was invited to a conference in Bangkok, Thailand (January 2001) and was described as an example of best practice.
- 6.14 There is emerging evidence which confirms the influence that “The Corner” has had nationally. This is based on the model being developed and policies being adopted in other parts of Scotland.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 A range of models have been discussed with the following stakeholders. Having measured the advantages and disadvantages of each one, it is the collective view that the model proposed in this report should be adopted.
- 7.2 Central Legal Office Scottish Health Service
 “The Corner’s” Joint Management Group
 The multi-disciplinary staff team at the project.
 Chief Executive, Tayside Primary Care NHS Trust.
- 7.3 The Chief Executive, Directors of Finance, Support Services and Education have been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 7.4 At its meeting on 20 June 2001, Tayside Health Board will also be invited to consider this report.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Whilst “The Corner” is expanding in terms of human resources (5 full-time and 6 part-time in 1995 to 14 full-time and 6 part-time in 2001) and in its contact with young people, it continues to be vibrant in terms of its scope of opportunities and vulnerable in its cocktail of funding arrangements. The creation of a new charity would create a major opportunity to generate additional income to give the project a more sustainable structure whilst striving to push the barriers in relation to practice with young people.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

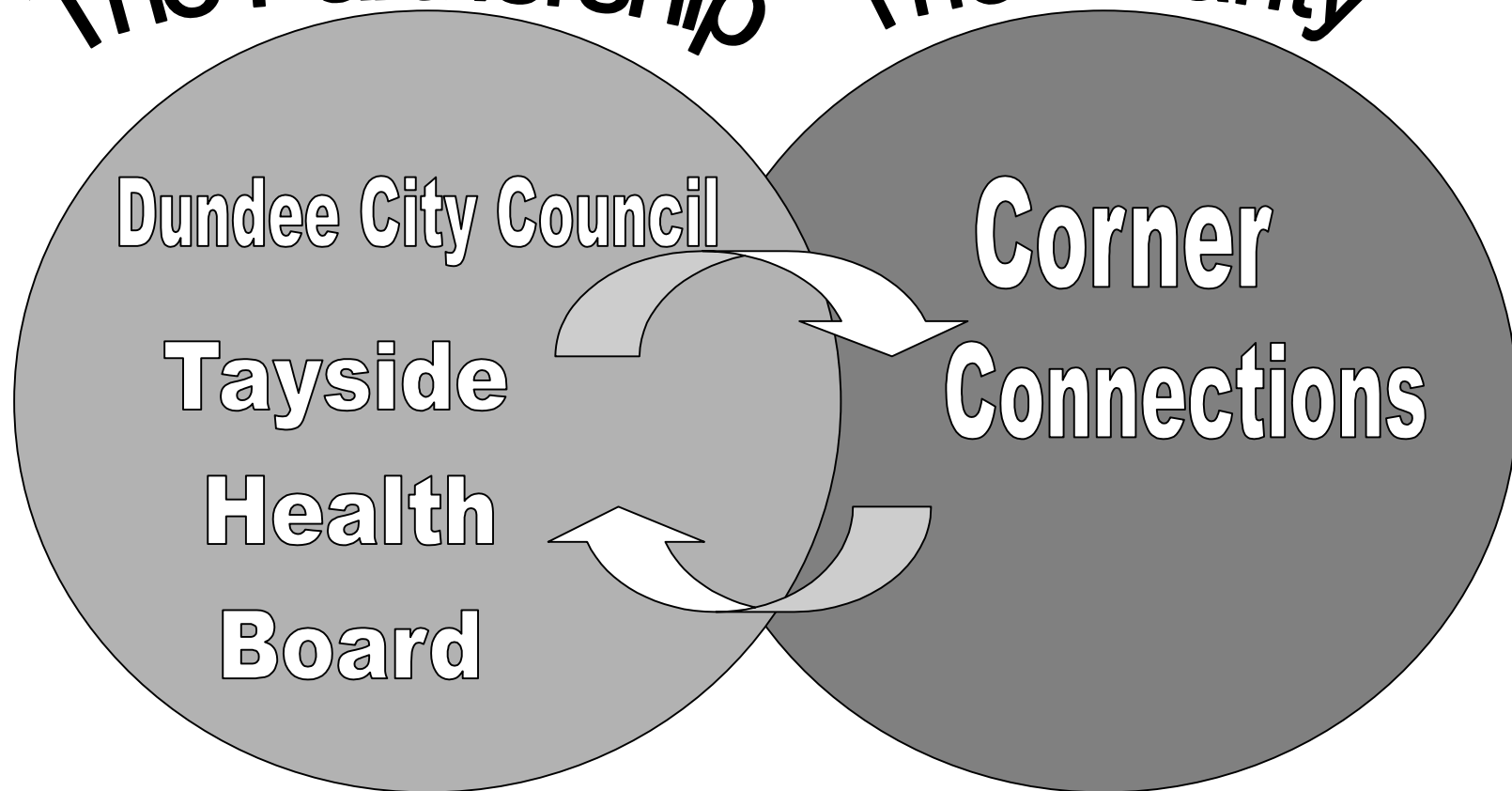
- 9.1 The following background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.
- 9.2 Communities – Change Through Learning: Osler report on the future of Community Education
 Social Inclusion – Opening the door to a better Scotland.
 Social Justice – A Scotland where everyone matters.
 Towards a Healthier Scotland – White paper on Public Health
 Designed to Care – White paper outlining proposals for restructuring the Health Service
 Making it Work together – Scottish Executive Guide for Commissioners of Advocacy Services
 Understanding the Policy Maze – A Guide to Social and Health Policy in Scotland.

Director Neighbourhood Resources and Development

Date

Proposal for New Structure - June 2001

The Partnership The Charity

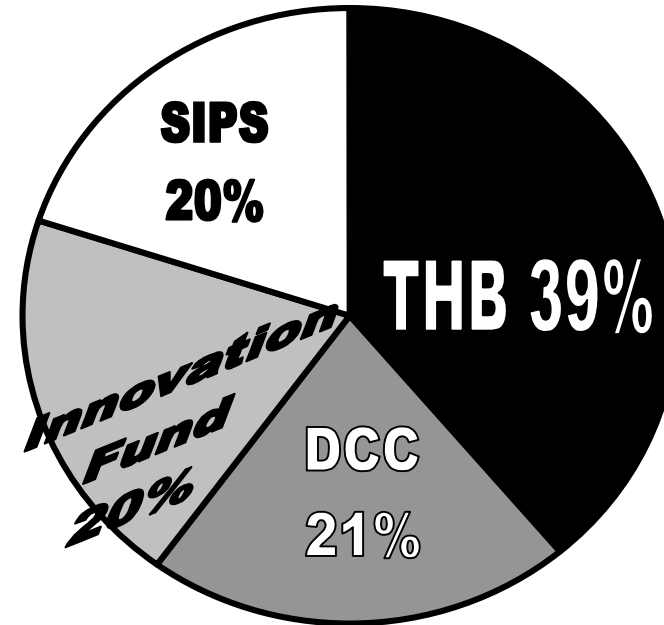


- Employer(s)
- Core funders
- Policy direction
- Strategic development

- Generate income
- Widen stakeholder involvement
- Develop projects image
- Consult and evidence need

"THE CORNER"

FUNDING BREAKDOWN - JUNE 2001



TAYSIDE HEALTH BOARD	CORE FUNDING	£172,626.00
DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL	CORE FUNDING	£ 92,107.00
SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE INNOVATION FUND -	FIXED TERM TO 31 MARCH 2002	£ 86,865.00
SOCIAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIPS -	FIXED TERM TO 31 MARCH 2002	£ <u>83,913.00</u>
TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET		<u>£435,511.00</u>