

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: Policy and Resources Committee - 7 December 2009**

**REPORT ON: Realignment of Supporting People Funding to Scottish Veteran's Housing Association in Relation to Rosendael**

**REPORT BY: Chief Executive**

**REPORT NO: 396 - 2009**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To inform members of the positive outcome to the discussions between officers of Dundee City Council and the management of Rosendael and to seek approval for a revised funding package from the Supporting People Budget and through Housing Benefit.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:-

approves the realignment of Supporting People funding to Scottish Veteran's Housing Association in respect of their accommodation at Rosendael to take account of the outcome of a Supporting People Service Review, the introduction of a new service level agreement for five additional residents, and a separate review of the organisation's eligible rent levels for Housing Benefit purposes.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The proposals contained in this report will result in a reduction in funding to Rosendael from the Supporting People Budget from £115,858 per annum to approximately £30,000 per annum. This reflects the actual level of Housing Support services provided by Rosendael. The balance of approximately £85,000 will be reinvested in other priority supporting people commitments.

3.2 The increase in eligible rent for Housing Benefit purposes proposed by Dundee City Council's Revenues Division will result in increased levels of Housing Benefit which based on current years activity will provide Rosendael with additional rental income of approximately £115,000 per annum.

### **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 The Scottish Veteran's Housing Association provides accommodation for those who have served in the Armed Forces or Merchant Navy and their spouses who find themselves in necessitating circumstances. Their accommodation at Rosendael provides fully furnished single rooms, all with ensuite facilities, for 45 veterans of all ages and provides a range of communal facilities, including a dining room for all meals. Rosendael is registered as a House of Multiple Occupation and is also registered with the Care Commission as a Housing Support service.

4.2 Since 2002/03, Rosendael has been in receipt of Supporting People funding which currently stands at £115,858 per annum. Within the terms of the Supporting People Policy, a five yearly review of the contract with Rosendael was undertaken with a focus on assessing the service quality, identifying whether or not individual need is being met and addressing issues of Best Value and strategic fit. The review concluded that the service

did not meet the strategic aims of Supporting People and that at that stage, Rosendael were unable to make the changes necessary for the service to meet these strategic aims and that therefore the current funding should be withdrawn. In addition, an activity analysis of services provided at Rosendael identified that only 5% of overall activity related to supporting people services. Outlined in the next section are the particular considerations which led to this conclusion.

- 4.3 While accommodation provided by Rosendael is of a very high standard, providing every resident with a "bed-sit" type of accommodation with en-suite facilities, Rosendael's admission criteria principally requires all prospective occupant's to have been a member of one of the three armed services, the Merchant Navy or being a spouse of an ex-serviceman. The admission policy is not integrated with those of either the Housing Department or the Social Work Department. Rosendael does not accept referrals from the Housing Department in terms of Section 5 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and retains the final discretion in relation to arranging admissions. Additionally, as it is a home of multi-occupation, Rosendael cannot offer a tenancy agreement that correlates with the Supporting People Policy which is to support and maintain people in their own home and tenancies.
- 4.4 The recommendation of the review to the Supporting People Management Team was that the Supporting People funding of £115,858 per annum should be withdrawn on the basis that the operation of the accommodation facility at Rosendael did not align with the strategic planning of the Council. However, following representations by both Rosendael and Councillors', a meeting took place on 5 August 2009 which was chaired by David Dorward, the then Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and was attended by Alan Baird, Director of Social Work and the Scottish Veterans' Housing Association was represented by Major General Mark Strudwick and Lieutenant Colonel Ian Ballantine.
- 4.5 In the discussion, the Rosendael Management representatives acknowledged that there was a need for them to better integrate with the Council's strategic planning with regard to provision of accommodation and the availability of a level of personal care and support. It was proposed by the Rosendael Management that 10% of the bed capacity at Rosendael would be made available to individuals who did not have any service background. It was recognised that this would require some adjustments in the current operational management arrangements at Rosendael, and it was agreed that a working group be established to look at developing details of a model which enabled non ex-service personnel to be provided with accommodation at Rosendael.
- 4.6 A total of four meetings took place with the management group at Rosendael and members of the Social Work and Housing Departments, and an agreement has been reached in principle with regards to developing a service provision for a particular client group with long term mental health difficulties who require a supported accommodation situation.
- 4.7 The proposals were discussed at a further meeting between the Chief Executive, the Director of Social Work, Major Strudwick and Lieutenant Colonel Ian Ballantine on 23 November 2009 when the following proposals were agreed:
- a) That 10% of the placements at Rosendael (five) would be offered to individuals not previously members of the forces and that the individuals nominated would be known to and be supported by the Adult Mental Health Team.
  - b) The allocation of the designated number of places would give the Social Work Department nomination rights for these particular places.
  - c) An inter-professional allocation procedure would be established to consider referrals for the designated places, and similarly, the need to consider the need for and the management of discharges from Rosendael would also be considered by this group.

d) On the basis of the Supporting People Review and service activity analysis, Dundee City Council would provide funding from the Supporting People Budget to reflect that 5% of overall services provided by Rosendael related to housing support.

e) In addition, following a review of the eligible rent for Housing Benefit purposes by the Dundee City Council's Revenues Division, the weekly rental considered eligible for Housing Benefit for each place at Rosendael will be increased from its current level. On an annual basis this amounts to additional housing benefit payments of approximately £115,000 per annum based on current activity levels.

4.8 Following the consideration of this report by the Policy and Resources Committee, a formal Service Level Agreement will be drawn up between the Social Work Department and the Scottish Veteran's Housing Association detailing the nature of the partnership with regard to providing accommodation for five designated individuals who do not have a services background.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Following the recommendation that the Supporting People funding be withdrawn from Rosendael, more recent discussions between the Social Work Department and the Management of SVHA have resulted in the proposed partnership which amends, to a limited degree, Rosendael's admission criteria and offers an additional supported accommodation option for service users of the Social Work Department who would be unable to manage a mainstream tenancy of their own. The revised Supporting People payment reflects the level of housing support services provided at Rosendael and the element no longer being paid to Rosendael will now be reinvested in other essential supporting people priorities.

This report is being screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environmental assessment, equality impact assessment and risk assessment.

There are no major issues.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

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

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None

David Dorward  
Chief Executive

Date: 25 November 2009