

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 16 JUNE 2003
REPORT ON: The Elms Secure Unit – Extension (Partnering)
REPORT BY: Director of Social Work and City Architectural Services Officer
REPORT NO: 409-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval for the extension of the Elms Secure Unit within the existing site on South Road.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Approval is recommended of:-

- a) the proposed extension of the Elms Secure Unit at a total cost of £120,000 inclusive of professional fees.
- b) the City Architectural Services Officer being authorised to negotiate a contract not exceeding £100,000 under a partnering arrangement with an appropriate contractor and the Director of Support Services in conjunction with the Director of Social Work to issue an acceptance for this contract subject to Scottish Executive funding being received.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of this work will be £120,000. An application has been made to the Scottish Executive for a Capital Grant to meet this cost.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This work will improve the quality of the environment offered to young people living in the Elms

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 REPORT

6.1 In June 2002, the Social Work Services Inspectorate (SWSI) and HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) carried out an inspection of the care and education arrangements at the Elms Secure Unit. The purpose of this inspection was to assess whether full approval should be given to the secure unit under the Regulation of Care (Requirements as to Care Services (Scotland) Regulations 2002.

6.2 A number of recommendations for action were made which are outlined in a separate report to the Social Work Committee, report no 398-2003. One of these recommendations was that the living area within the secure unit should be extended to address the "claustrophobic feel" identified by the inspectors.

6.3 The City Architectural Services Officer, in consultation with the Director of Social Work and architects at the Scottish Executive, has prepared a scheme which addresses the issues raised in the inspection report. This involves increasing the living area by approximately 40m² by the construction of a new extension together with internal adaptations to suit the new layout.

6.4 The cost of the extension has been estimated, by the City Architectural Services Officer, at £120,000 inclusive of professional fees.

6.5 It is proposed that the City Architectural Services Officer enters into a partnering arrangement with an appropriate contractor with a view to completing the construction work by March 2004 and within the allowance of £100,000

7.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Support Services have been consulted during the preparation of this report.

8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 Unless otherwise stated on the attached sheet, no 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 any material extent in preparing the above report.

Alan Baird
Director of Social Work

John T P Porter
City Architectural Services Officer

13 June 2003
Report No 409-2003

Q2/reports/409/SB/JG