

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE - 24 AUGUST 2009

REPORT ON: EXTENSION OF THE MACMILLAN TAYSIDE WELFARE BENEFITS PROJECT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 417 - 2009

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present Social Work and Health Committee with the proposal to extend the Macmillan Tayside Welfare Benefits Project. Extension of the project would provide an opportunity for the three Tayside Local Authorities in conjunction with Macmillan Cancer Support to augment the current joint working arrangement in two ways, firstly by providing an additional specialist welfare benefits service within Ninewells Hospital for those living with a diagnosis of cancer, and secondly by establishing a separate specialist Welfare Benefits Service for those living with a diagnosis of selected Long Term Conditions.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work and Health Committee:-

- i) notes the content of this report;
- ii) welcomes the extension of the joint working arrangement between Dundee City Council, Angus Council, Perth and Kinross Council and Macmillan Cancer Support.
- iii) instruct the Director of Social Work to take forward the staffing implications contained in the report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The staff and ancillary costs associated with these proposals will be contained within new monies being made available from Macmillan Cancer Support. The total funding available to the project will be £264,000 over a two year period across the three local authorities with Dundee City Council receiving £132,000 from this fund over the two financial years.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

- 4.1 Social Work and Health Committee agreed report 60-2009 at its meeting on 26th January 2009 which outlined the establishment of the Macmillan Tayside Welfare Benefits Project. Macmillan Cancer Support is a leading cancer support organisation. Over the past 5 years they have established a network of benefits and financial advice services across Scotland to enable people diagnosed with cancer to mitigate, where possible, the worst effects of financial worries and hardship that can be the consequence of prolonged cancer treatment.
- 4.2 The scale and impact of the Scottish Cancer Benefits Network is such that it provides a proven model for partnership working between local government, NHS and the third sector.
- 4.3 The impact of the services currently in place and their role as pathfinders in this area of financial inclusion has been recognised by the Scottish Government. As of August 2009 the Tayside Macmillan Welfare Benefits Project is now underway in Tayside as a joint partnership.

- 4.4 A Long Term Condition diagnosis usually lasts longer than a year and may affect any aspect of a person's life. In Scotland at least a third of households include one or more people with a limiting Long Term Condition. Prevalence increases with age - around two thirds of those aged 75 and over live with at least one Long Term Condition

Source: Measuring Long Term Conditions in Scotland, NHS Information Services 2008

- 4.5 Issues of financial hardship as a consequence of Long Term Conditions are now being reported with increasing regularity though the auspices of the Long Term Conditions Alliance Scotland. In addition to the well recognised conditions of Cardiovascular Disease there is also a significant challenge in supporting people who present with Dementia, Diabetes, Multiple Sclerosis, Arthritis, Parkinson's Disease and Mental Health disorders that need effective and timely advice as they and their families come to terms with the realities of living with these conditions.
- 4.6 Understanding the prevalence of Long Term Conditions within communities is an evolving process within Scotland. However what is certain is that Scots living with significant disabilities / life long and progressive disease face the same daily living challenges on work, finance, isolation and the emotional legacy of their condition as people affected by cancer.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Following discussion between Macmillan Cancer Support; Dundee City Council, Angus Council; and Perth and Kinross Council a joint working arrangement has been proposed to augment the Tayside Welfare Benefits Project in 2 distinct areas.
- 5.2 Firstly as the network of cancer services and the scale of the current partnerships continue to develop, there is an opportunity to further extend the service delivery for people affected by cancer by replicating the successful model developed at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre to all five Scottish tertiary cancer treatment centres, including Ninewells Hospital.
- 5.3 Within Dundee, funds will be used to employ 1 FTE Cancer Treatment Centre Welfare Rights Officer for a period of two years who will be a member of the Tayside Macmillan Welfare Benefits Team but will be based within the Tayside tertiary cancer treatment centre at Ninewells Hospital. Administrative support will be provided by the Welfare Rights Service.
- 5.4 Secondly there is now an opportunity to test the impact of extending the cancer model of benefits and financial advice to other selected Long Term Conditions. In parallel to the development of cancer specific services this will be designed and delivered through a partnership between the relevant clinical teams and the advice professionals with the Macmillan Tayside Benefits Project. In turn it will pilot the value and impact of integrated benefits and financial advice for people and their families who are dealing with the social/economic impact of living with a Long Term Condition.
- 5.5 Within Dundee, funds will be used to employ 1 FTE Long Term Conditions Welfare Rights Officer for a period of 2 years who will be a member of the Tayside Macmillan Welfare Benefits Team based in the Welfare Rights Service. Administrative support will be provided by the Welfare Rights Service.
- 5.6 The project partners will also make detailed information on the service, what it does and how it can be contacted, available to a wide range of partners in Angus, Dundee and Perth & Kinross as well as providing training and information face to face to relevant staff in key local agencies.
- 5.7 Home visiting and direct advice in clinical settings will be used to deliver an effective service to both cancer and Long Term Conditions patients and their families. The project will also provide a 'gateway' into established specialist welfare benefits advice, money advice and information services provided by Angus Council, Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council.

- 5.8 The fundamental objective of the project is to improve ease of access to welfare benefits and money advice for cancer and Long Term Conditions patients in all 3 Council areas. The approach will also use the Macmillan brand to raise public awareness of the service.
- 5.9 In addition the model being adopted will complement existing advice services across Tayside, and provide an overarching Welfare Benefits and Money Advice Service that directly meets the needs of people affected by cancer or other Long Term Conditions.
- 5.10 This joint working extension of the Project has led to a bid for funding from the three local authorities to Macmillan for £264,000 for a two-year project. This money will be distributed between the three authorities with Dundee City Council receiving £ 132,000 over the two years 2009 to 2011. In return for this funding and in common with similar partnerships in other areas, Macmillan would wish to see a "co-branding" of the initiative with the Council.
- 5.11 The three authorities and Macmillan will work closely together to ensure that those living with a cancer diagnosis or one of the selected Long Term Conditions are offered advice and assistance to claim all the welfare benefits to which they are entitled.
- 5.12 Following an evaluation of the project and subject to achieving satisfactory outcomes it is anticipated that the service would continue to be provided after the initial two year period with an emphasis on service users receiving palliative care. This would be provided for from within existing resources and from re-profiling the service.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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.

7.0 CONSULTATION

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

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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Director of Social Work

07 August 2009