

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Social Work Committee - 20 August 2001
Personnel and Management Services Committee - 13 August 2001

REPORT ON: Social Work Department - Extending the Service Provided by the Residential Respite Care Unit for Children with Disabilities

REPORT BY: Director of Social Work And Director of Personnel and Management Services

REPORT NO: 446-2001

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval to extend the residential respite care service provided at Gillburn Road for children with disabilities. The report also seeks approval for the new staffing establishment required for this purpose.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:-

2.1.1 notes and approves the contents of this report;

2.1.2 approves an extension to the Residential Respite Care Service provided at Gillburn Road.

2.2 It is recommended that the Personnel and Management Services Committee:-

2.2.1 approves the new staffing establishment outlined in Appendix 1.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the above recommendations will be £43,580 in 2001/02 and £74,709 in a full financial year. This will be met from the Children's Services Development Fund, which is held within the Contingencies New Monies for financial year 2001/02 (Appendix 2).

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The extended provision of respite care services at Gillburn Road will allow more children, young people and their families to be supported within their own communities.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The extension of this respite care service will widen access to more children and young people and thereby promote their social inclusion.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Respite care provides a child's parents or carers with a break where the absence of such support might result in the breakdown of the usual care arrangements for the child or young person. Volume 1 of "Scotland's Children - The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Regulation" and guidance notes that respite services are an important part of the range of services that should be available to help families with children in need.
- 6.2 The Social Work Committee, at its meeting on 19 April 1999, to which Report No.278-1999 refers, authorised the building of a new Residential Respite Care Unit at Gillburn Road as part of a commitment to these young people and their families. This new unit has been operational since September 2000. The service offers a regular planned respite arrangement to seventeen young people and their families. The Unit is currently open 20 days out of 28 days.
- 6.3 The Unit provides respite care for children and young people with learning and/or physical disabilities. Some of these young people present challenging behaviour which mean they cannot receive respite from alternative family care such as fostering or day care. Each child is offered an individualised package of care to suit their needs and development. The safety of the children is paramount and therefore the ratio of staff to children is high.
- 6.4 The level of respite care received by the family is based on the individual assessment of the child's needs and the family's needs. The level of respite is also dependent on the alternative supports the child and family may have.
- 6.5 If the Committee approves the full-time opening of this Respite Care Unit it will address the current unmet need. The number of families who will be offered this service will increase and the type of respite that can be offered will become more flexible and responsive to the individual child and to the needs of their families.

7 PROPOSED STAFFING LEVELS

- 7.1 There is a need to establish additional 3.2 full-time equivalent Social Care Officers to ensure adequate levels of staffing to maintain the high staff/child ratio. This will ensure flexibility of social care hours and will provide time for the necessary training of staff to care safely for the children and young people.
- 7.2 This staffing establishment would keep the ratio of staff to children consistent throughout the year.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Discussions have taken place with parents and carers and with the current users of Gillburn Road and they are all in agreement with the proposed extension or service as they experience the limitations of the current service. Our partners in the voluntary sector have also been consulted.
- 8.2 Consultation has also taken place with the Director of Finance and Support Services, and the relevant trade unions.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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.

10 SIGNATURE

J. Roberts
Director of Social Work

Date

J.C. Petrie
Director of Personnel and Management Services

Date

STAFFING ESTABLISHMENT

Current

Job Title	SCP	CURRENT FTE	PROPOSED FTE
Manager	34 - 37	1	1
Senior Social Care Officer	27 - 30	2	2
Social Care Officers	16 - 23	6.6	9.8
Clerical Assistant	3-12	0.5	0.5
Cook	MW3	0.4	0.4
Domestic	MW1	0.5	0.5

Financial Implications

	SCP	POST (F.T.E)	Full Year Cost (£)
Manager	34-37	1.0	24,741
Senior Social Care Officer	27-30	2.0	37,968
Social Care Officer	16-23	9.8	141,943
Clerical Assistant	3-12	0.5	5,898
Cook	MW3	0.4	3,825
Domestic	MW1	0.5	4,454
Allowances			28,230
		14.2	247,059
National Insurance & Superannuation			40,270
Total Staff Costs			287,329
Current Staffing Budgets			212,620
Full Year Additional Cost			74,709
Additional Cost in 2001/02 (Implementation 1 Sept 2001)			43,580