

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

**REPORT ON: FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS IN SOCIAL WORK PROPERTIES**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

**REPORT NO: 483-2004**

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report advises Members of the current position in relation to fire risk assessments in Social Work properties.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:

- 2.1 notes the current position in relation to fire safety.
- 2.2 instructs the Director of Social Work to progress outstanding recommendations from fire risk assessments.

### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Most of the priority risk assessment recommendations have been actioned and where a cost has resulted this has been/ will be met from maintenance budgets within the Department's revenue budget.

### **4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None

### **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None

### **6 MAIN TEXT**

- 6.1 The local authority has responsibilities under Health and Safety legislation to ensure that fire safety measures are in place in all its buildings, for the protection of both service users and staff. As Social Work provides a 24-hour per day, 7 day per week service for some very vulnerable individuals, the importance of appropriate measures and procedures cannot be overestimated. This was highlighted by the recent tragic fire in a care home in Uddingston.

- 6.2 A programme of fire risk assessments of Social Work properties had already begun, but in the wake of the Uddingston incident, this programme was accelerated and existing assessments were reviewed and updated if required. Appropriately trained and experienced staff from Economic Development and Architectural Services undertook the risk assessments on behalf of Social Work. In addition, the Fire Service undertook independent visits to all care homes in Dundee as part of a nationwide programme.
- 6.3 Each risk assessment is very detailed. A summary of the outcome and action taken following completion of the risk assessments is attached as Appendix 1.
- 6.4 The vast majority of recommendations have already been actioned and those remaining are mostly in the lowest priority category. It is reassuring to note that the Fire Brigade had only minor recommendations to make in a few premises when they conducted their recent inspections. All of these recommendations have already been actioned

## **7 CONSULTATION**

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

## **8 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.

Alan G Baird  
Director of Social Work

Date: 9 June 2004

**FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS - SOCIAL WORK**

Priority 1 - requires urgent attention within 2 weeks

Priority 2 - requires attention within 3 months

Priority 3 - requires consideration in the long term

\* refers to visit since December 2003.

<b>UNIT</b>	<b>TYPE OF SERVICE</b>	<b>CARE GROUP</b>	<b>VISIT FROM FIRE BRIGADE*</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS NOT ACTIONED YET</b>	<b>REASON</b>
Douglas Child and Family Centre	Day service	Young children	No	Emergency lighting at all fire exit doors – priority 3	Costings being obtained
				Window dressings to be replaced with fire retardant material – priority 2	Costings being obtained
Bruce Street Child and Family Centre	Day service	Young children	No	Guards fitted over warm air heaters – priority 3	Costings being obtained
Linlathen Child and Family Centre	Day service	Young children	No	All completed or works on order	
Whitfield Child and Family Centre	Day service	Young children	No	Soft furnishings to be fire retardant – priority 2	Costings being obtained
Lochee Child and Family Centre	Day service	Young children	No	Window dressings to be fire retardant – priority 2	Under discussion
Gillburn Road	Residential	Children with disabilities	8/3/04. No actions required	All actioned	
Eastport House	Residential	Adult offenders	No	Various minor changes and checks	List being worked through by staff
Duncan Place	Residential	Young people	March & April 2004, action on fire doors advised, repair request made	Fire retardant bedding, curtains etc required - priority 1	Being selected, in consultation with residents
The Junction	Residential	Young people	No	Staff training in use of fire extinguishers - priority 2	Planned for June 04

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Strathcarron Place	Residential	Young people	No	Voids and ducts fire stopping to be considered – priority 3 Visual warning devices advised – priority 3 Fire doors to have magnetic openers fitted – priority 3	Costings being obtained
Fairbairn Street	Residential	Young people	15/12/03. Action on door required. In hand	Training for staff in checking emergency lighting - priority 1	Training being arranged
Maryfield House	Residential	Adults with learning disabilities	10/02/04. Night time evacuation suggested and has taken place.	Improvements to kitchen and laundry areas - priority 3	Costings being obtained
Elmgrove House	Residential	Adults with learning disabilities	No	Training in use of fire extinguishers - priority 2. Various changes to building - priority 3	Training arranged with Fire Brigade Fire alarm system currently being upgraded.
Mackinnon Centre	Day services and residential	Adults with physical disabilities	22/03/04. No recommendations made	Various improvements to doors, sockets etc - priority 2 and 3	Costings being obtained
Janet Brougham House	Residential	Older people	29/03/04. No recommendations made	Training in use of fire extinguishers - priority 2 Changes to doors & door ironmongery - priority 3	Awaiting date from Fire Brigade Costings being obtained
Turriff House	Residential	Older people	5/02/04. Self-closers to be fitted to 2 doors - now done.	Regularly test new sprinkler system - priority 1 Visible warning device for hard of hearing- priority 3	Training required first - requested through Ec. Dev. Under discussion

Priority 1 - requires urgent attention within 2 weeks

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Menzieshill House/Day Centre	Residential and day centre	Older people	5/02/04. Residents' doors and corridor fire doors to be kept closed at night. Fire doors in day centre to be kept closed. All now actioned	Training in use of fire extinguishers - priority 2 Various changes to interior of building - priority 3	Being arranged by Fire Brigade. New build to replace Menzieshill House now underway.
Craigie House	Residential	Older people	11/02/04. Storage cupboards to be kept locked. Safety labelling required on some cupboards. All actioned.	Improvements to doors, automatic fire /smoke drop curtain - priority 3	Costings being obtained
Wellgate Day Centre	Day services	Older people	No	All completed or works on order	
Kemback Street ARC	Day services	Adults with learning disabilities	No	All completed or works on order	
Douglas House	Day services	Adults with learning disabilities	No	Changes to doors, upgrading recommended. Priority 2 (some) and 3 (most)	No action as Douglas House in temporary use only.