

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 18 August 2003

REPORT ON: NEW RESPITE FACILITY FOR YOUNG ADULTS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 488 - 2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To create through the auspices of SENSE Scotland a new modern Young Adult Respite Centre in Dundee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Social Work Committee remits to the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) (subject to the consent of the Scottish Executive in terms of Section 74 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973) to complete an agreement with SENSE Scotland that will oblige SENSE Scotland to provide a purpose built facility for Young Adults at no capital cost to the Council in return for the transfer of the Council's rights of ownership at Fleuchar Street, Dundee to SENSE Scotland at nil consideration.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The estimated current value of the site to be transferred (at nil consideration) is £67,000 in return for which SENSE Scotland will build a new respite facility at a cost of approximately £270,000.

3.2 The running costs of the existing weekend and holiday respite service are £127,000 per year. The cost of the service provided at the new facility will increase by no more than £20,000 per year (due to increased property costs and any cost of borrowing incurred by SENSE) which will be met from within existing Social Work Department respite budgets.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no Local Agenda 21 implications.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The establishment of a permanent base for the Respite Service will ensure that Young Adults with challenging behaviour will be able to access an appropriate service on an ongoing basis.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 The Respite Service for Young Adults With Challenging Behaviour was initially commissioned by the Social Work Department from SENSE Scotland in October 1999. Initially this was provided at Strathmore Cottages but was intended to be a temporary measure as the site had been identified for a new Children's Unit. The new unit is currently under construction. The Respite Service is now provided at Douglas House, however, this is not felt to be an appropriate long term option for this service

- 6.2 SENSE Scotland are currently securing funds to provide a new purpose built building. A site search in Dundee carried out by the Economic Development department identified that the Fleuchar Street site would provide a suitable base for the Respite Service.
- 6.3 The site comprises two areas of ground, the larger of which the Council owns. Over the smaller area, the Council only has a share of ownership. The Council will transfer its ownership rights in the whole area to SENSE Scotland. SENSE Scotland may require to resolve title issues in relation to other possible owners of the smaller area.
- 6.4 In return for the provision of the land at Fleuchar Street, SENSE will build the new unit on the site and the service will be made available to the Social Work Department in a permanent location in a modern and appropriate setting. The facility to be provided by SENSE Scotland will be a superior facility than that currently provided by Dundee City Council.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Director of Economic Development.

8.0 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: 8th August 2003