

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 19th January 2004

REPORT ON: SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 49-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report advises Social Work Committee of additional resources that are to be allocated to Dundee City Council by the Scottish Executive. These resources are designed to improve services for young people leaving care and to implement the new duties arising from the regulations on Supporting Young People Leaving Care in Scotland, which will come into force on 1 April 2004.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:

2.1 Note and approve the contents of this report and, in particular, acknowledge the new duties that now arise in respect of young people leaving local authority care.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The distribution of additional funding to Dundee City Council for the period 2003 - 2006 is as follows:

2003/04 - £41,268

2004/05 - £165,070

2005/06 - £206,338

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposals within this report are within Agenda 21 objectives.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This service development will be implemented in a way which meets the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 Report 788-2002 to the Social Work Committee on 20 January 2003 made a number of recommendations designed to improve Dundee City Council's service to young people leaving care. It also advised of new duties introduced under the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001. From 1 April 2004, the Department of Work and Pensions will no longer pay certain benefits to some young people leaving care, and at this point, the local authority will assume financial responsibility for these young people until they reach the age of eighteen.

6.2 From 1 April 2004, the majority of young people who are looked after and accommodated by the local authority up to and including their sixteenth birthday will receive their financial support from the local authority from the time they leave care till they reach the age of eighteen. This financial support will include accommodation costs as well as regular income or income supplementation.

6.3 Each young person's needs will be informed by an individual comprehensive assessment undertaken by the Throughcare and Aftercare team, and individual payments to young people will reflect the results of these assessments. The Scottish Executive will provide training, support and assessment materials for local authorities before April 2004 to assist them with these duties.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 The Throughcare and Aftercare Strategy was approved by Committee in January 2003 and is now being implemented. The additional funding referred to in this report will further enhance the service to young people leaving care.

8.0 CONSULTATION

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

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 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: 12 January 2004