

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 24 OCTOBER 2005

**REPORT ON:** REDEPLOYING THE ROWANS COMMUNITY RESOURCE TEAM

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

**REPORT NO:** 594-2005

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to disband the Rowans Community Resource Team and redeploy existing staff to vacant posts in high priority areas of Children's Services.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee: -

- 2.1 approve the plan to disband the Rowans Community Resource Team and redeploy existing staff to vacant posts within Dundee City Council.
- 2.2 instruct the Director of Social Work and Assistant Chief Executive (Management) to continue to consult employees and trade unions regarding all the staffing implications including redeployment.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The redeployment of staff from the Rowans Team to either current vacant posts within the Social Work Department or new posts funded from additional Youth Justice monies from the Scottish Executive with subsequent deletion of posts within the team will release resources of £228,000 in a full financial year. This will be used to offset budgetary pressures within the Social Work Department's Revenue Budget.
- 3.2 The financial implications of any new services funded from additional Youth Justice Funding (as outlined at 6.6) will be subject to a separate report.

### **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The redeployment of the Rowans Resource Team will contribute to a more effective and efficient use of resources.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 All staff will have an opportunity to be redeployed to posts commensurate with their skills and experience.

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

- 6.1 The Rowans Community Resource Team provides a direct service to young people aged 12 years and over in need and at risk who are in receipt of social work services from Dundee City Council's Social Work Department.
- 6.2 It aims to assist young people to avoid lifestyles which place them at risk; and to support and maintain young people in their own families and communities.
- 6.3 The team hosts a resource base that provides consultancy, materials and space to colleagues; encouraging and supporting direct work by them with young people.
- 6.4 Given the recent development of a range of services in the community such as Xplore, Key to Change and the work on sexual exploitation co-ordinated through Barnardos that overlap with the function of the Rowans, we now have the opportunity to review and refocus the social work community resource to young people and families.
- 6.5 This review will allow the Social Work Department to develop services associated with youth justice - meeting National Standards and targets - in a way that will benefit from the skills, experience and expertise of staff members of the Rowans team.
- 6.6 Programmes and services to existing service users will be completed by 31 March 2006 and it will be planned that their continuing needs will be met through the new youth justice services or by the range of services in the community.
- 6.7 There is funding available to Dundee City Council through the Scottish Executive to meet statutory obligations associated with National Standards for Youth Justice.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Team members were briefed of this plan on 17 August and there has been subsequent discussion with the trade unions. The plan was made public within Children's Services on 24 August 2005. Individual meetings with the Service Manager and personnel have been offered to all staff affected.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

Alan G Baird  
Director of Social Work

Date: 14 October 2005