

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Personnel and Management Services Committee - 20 October 2003

REPORT ON: Dundee Child Protection Committee - Corporate Planning Division - Establishment of Posts

REPORT BY: Chair of Dundee Child Protection Committee and Assistant Chief Executive (Management)

REPORT NO: 641-2003

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report requests approval to establish three fixed term posts, funded through the Changing Children's Services Fund. The availability of a Changing Children's Services Fund, to Dundee City Council, was reported to the Policy and Resources Committee on 11 March 2002. The aim of the fund is to achieve better outcomes for the most vulnerable children by promoting good practice in the delivery of integrated services.
- 1.2 One of the Dundee proposals to the Changing Children's Services Fund, agreed by the Scottish Executive for 2003/2004, is a project to modernise and integrate services for children in need of protection and support. The first element of the proposal is to appoint staff to work to the Dundee Child Protection Committee to assist the committee in its task of planning services, developing policies, procedures and practice and assuring the quality of inter-agency child protection work.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee approves the establishment of the following posts for a fixed term period of two years:-

- 2.1 Lead Officer Child Protection, graded PO15-18, £35,343 - £37,833;
- 2.2 Staff Development Officer, graded PO1-4, £24,888 - £27,015;
- 2.3 Clerical Assistant, graded GS1/2, £10,068 - £13,416.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost, including employer's costs, of funding these three posts will be £28,728 for the current financial year and £90,852 for a full financial year thereafter. This cost will be funded by monies received from the Changing Children's Services Fund.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The proposal will develop Dundee Child Protection Committee's ability to function as a multi-agency group, improving the quality of child protection services for children in Dundee, furthering the Council's commitment to supporting and protecting children.

5 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None.

6 **BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 One of the recommendations of the Scottish Executive's Child Protection Audit and Review Report entitled "It's Everyone's Job To Make Sure I'm Alright", was that Chief Executives should review the structure, membership and scope of their Child Protection Committees to determine whether they were best constituted to take on the responsibilities for assuring the quality of agency and inter-agency services.
- 6.2 Report No. 164-2003 to Social Work Committee, approved a recommendation that an independent audit of the current and future work of Dundee's Child Protection Committee be commissioned. This review was completed in June 2003 and one of its key recommendations is that posts be established to support the development of multi-agency child protection services and practice in Dundee.
- 6.3 A Lead Officer, Child Protection is needed to provide professional support to Dundee Child Protection Committee to ensure the effective operation of its role and remit in the monitoring and development of child protection systems and practice in the city. A Staff Development Officer post is required to work across agency and professional boundaries to develop skills in working together to protect children and keep them safe. The Clerical Assistant will support these officers in their roles.
- 6.4 It is, therefore, proposed that the posts of Lead Officer, Child Protection; Staff Development Officer; and Clerical Assistant be established for a fixed term period of two years. The posts will be based in the Corporate Planning Division.

7 **CONSULTATION**

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

8 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 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.

A. Baird
Chair of Dundee Child Protection Committee (Director of Social Work)

10 October 2003

J.C. Petrie
Assistant Chief Executive (Management)

10 October 2003