

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 16 December 2002

REPORT ON: A CONSISTENT APPROACH TO TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 831-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To recommend new arrangements for the funding of transport for adults with a disability in local authority residential units.

To introduce a system of fair and equitable access to transport for all permanent residents of local authority residential units.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To introduce and agree the framework of funding that will ensure the transport needs of adults with a learning disability in residential settings are met in a consistent and equitable manner.

2.2 To approve a weekly contribution by all residents to the cost of providing transport. This contribution will be linked to the rate of mobility component of Disability Living Allowance received by the resident. Those in receipt of lower rate of mobility component of Disability Living Allowance will contribute £5 per week and £10 per week for those receiving higher rate of mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.

2.3 To agree to the acquisition of two vehicles for Maryfield House and a replacement for the existing vehicle at Elmgrove House.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The contributions by residents will result in availability of £17,680 in a full financial year which will be reinvested in transport services for those residents (see financial appendix). In addition to this some reallocation of budgets between units will be required to finance an appropriate vehicle for each unit.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

The provision of accessible transport for all adults with a learning disability will improve levels of service and make community facilities more readily accessible.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

This development will ensure that adults with a learning disability continue to receive a level of service that is appropriate to their needs.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

There is currently an inconsistent approach to access and contributions to the cost of transport within residential units for adults with learning disability. Some residents do not have access to a vehicle, whilst others have access to a vehicle but make no financial contribution to the vehicle. Other residents have access to a vehicle for which they do make a financial contribution. At present no transport is provided for the 24 Residents of Maryfield House.

The present rates of contribution by residents vary between £3.00 and £7.00 and have not been reviewed since their introduction in 1997.

A review of the funding arrangements was carried out during financial year 2002/03. It emerged during that review that current financial arrangements were largely ad hoc and therefore inequitable. This review went on to identify all those residents who have the higher/lower rate of mobility allowance and to recommend a revised rate of contribution of £5 per week for those on the lower rate of Attendance Allowance and £10 per week for those on the higher rate. This recommendation was made because individuals receive benefits specifically for the purpose of meeting their transport requirements. It will ensure a consistent and equitable approach across all of Dundee City Council's residential units for Adults who have a learning disability. The review also led to the recommendation that transport should be provided for Maryfield House and replaced at Elmgrove House.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1.1 Consultation has taken place with The Director of Finance and the Director of Support Services.

7.2 Consultation has also taken place with residents, carers and advocates.

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.

9.0 SIGNATURE

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

6 December 2002

Financial Appendix**Residential Units for Adults with Learning Disability**

Current Transport Budget	£28,320
Contributions from residents	£17,680
Total resources available	£46,000
Less:	
Current Expenditure Commitments (Ongoing Vehicle Leases, & Fuel Costs)	£27,490
Balance Available to fund three new vehicles	£18,510