

REPORT TO: HOUSING COMMITTEE – 18 NOVEMBER 2002
SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 18 NOVEMBER 2002

REPORT ON: SUPPORTING PEOPLE INTERIM CONTRACT
ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL
WORK

REPORT NO.: 840-2002

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the proposed interim contracting arrangements which are a requirement of the introduction of the Supporting People Programme.

The interim contracts will apply to those providers with whom we do not currently contract with. Existing contract arrangements will be amended to meet the requirements of Supporting People.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- 2.1. Agrees that the Council enters into interim contracts with the contractors listed in Appendix 1.
- 2.2. Agrees that the Director of Housing/Director of Social Work be remitted to sign contracts on behalf of the Council.
- 2.3. Agree that full Supporting People contracts will be awarded as a result of the required service reviews.

3. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

The Supporting People Policy framework should improve the health and well being of people by enhancing the range of accommodation and support services to meet their needs.

4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

The full implementation of the Supporting People Policy and framework should improve the choice of accommodation with support available to vulnerable people. It also gives the opportunity to provide flexible housing support irrespective of where the recipient lives.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Supporting People places a new administrative duty on the Council to manage the

Supporting People Fund.

The interim contracting process can be managed within the additional funding given to Councils to implement Supporting People, until 2003/04.

Management of the full contract process will require additional resources.

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. Supporting People is being introduced in April 2003 as "A new integrated policy and funding framework for services for people in supported accommodation, or in receipt of flexible support". *Ref: Scottish Executive Guidance "Supporting People: A New Policy and Funding Framework for Support Services"*.

It will bring together the following funding streams into one budget, the Supporting People Fund:

- The contribution to support which is currently paid by Transitional Housing Benefit (THB).
- Income support or income based job seekers allowance where this pays for support charges.
- Special needs allowance package.
- Resettlement grant from Communities Scotland (formerly Scottish Homes).

Local authorities will be responsible for the administration of this budget and will have the resources transferred to them, from the sources identified above, to fund support.

- 6.2. Local authorities are required to pay providers the equivalent of the amount they currently receive from the above funding streams to ensure a continuity of service at 1 April 2003.

In order for local authorities to make payments, and to ensure appropriate use of the budget, local authorities will have to enter into "interim contracts" with each provider. These are intended to reflect the current position and the Scottish Executive have stressed that these contracts should not be used to set new standards and conditions for existing housing support services.

The interim contract also allows local authorities to review the services they are required to initially fund between 2003 and 2006 to ensure they meet their agreed strategic objectives – crucially to amend or terminate funding.

- 6.3. It is recognised by the Scottish Executive that this may result in Councils being required to enter into contracts with providers who may not have been required to fully comply with local authorities contracting standing orders. In addition, they recognise that Councils will be required to contract with housing support providers, many of whom will not be on the Council's approved providers' lists. Interim contracts should not be withheld from providers not currently on approved lists. Any such providers who the Council has concerns over will be identified for an early service review.
- 6.4. The Council, principally the Social Work Department, will already have existing care contracts with some of these providers. Where existing monitoring arrangements exist these will also be utilised for housing support service contracted with that provider.

7. SERVICE REVIEWS

- 7.1. The Supporting People framework requires local authorities to review all the services they fund under Supporting People. This allows local authorities to determine whether providers are providing the services needed locally in the most appropriate manner. All services which have interim contracts must be reviewed within the first three years of the programme, that is before March 2006.
- 7.2. The service review dates will be agreed with providers within the interim contract. The areas which will be considered when undertaking service reviews will include strategic relevance to the Council's needs, demand for the service, quality and effectiveness, cost of the service and provider capacity.
- 7.3. Draft guidance has just been issued by the Scottish Executive on service reviews and this will be the basis for the Council's service review framework.

Once each service has been reviewed, full Supporting People contracts can be negotiated with, where appropriate, revised contract compliance criteria in line with Best Value and agreed Council service priorities.

A further report will outline the process and plan for service reviews.

8. CONTRACTING PARTNERS

Appendix 1 identifies the providers the Council shall be contracting with.

Council will be updated prior to April 2003 of the contracts and the contract values.

9. CONSULTATION

The Director of Support Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Scottish Executive Guidance:

- Supporting People: A New Policy and Funding Framework for Support Services.
- Supporting People Strategic Guidance "Commissioning Housing Support Services".
- Supporting People Consultation Paper 13 "Service Reviews".

ELAINE ZWIRLEIN
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

Signed: _____

Date: _____

ALAN BAIRD
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

APPENDIX 1

Abertay Housing Association
Bield Housing Association Ltd.
Cairn Housing Association
Hillcrest Housing Association
Home in Scotland
Margaret Blackwood Housing Association
Angus Housing Association
Sanctuary Scotland Housing Association
Scottish Veterans' Housing Association
Servite Housing Association
Gowrie Housing Association

Carolina House Trust
Turning Point
Cornerstone Community Care
Dundee Cyrenians
Dundee Survival Group
Dundee Women's Aid Collective
The Jericho Society
NCH Scotland
Positive Steps Partnership
The Richmond Fellowship Scotland
Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH)
Sense Scotland
The Salvation Army

Atholl Bank Guest House
Directions
Dudhope Villa & Sister Properties
Farington Retirement Flats
Rose Lodge Hotel
Westlands Guest House