

2 SHELTER LOCAL LANDLORD SUPPORT PROJECTS (AN134-2015)

Shelter Scotland has secured grant funding from the Oak Foundation for work to promote higher standards in the private rented sector. The focus will be on working with landlords, tenants and intermediaries to understand the sector better and to explore areas which would lead to improvements in the day to day practice of landlords.

Shelter is proposing two local outreach projects which will work with landlords: one in an urban area and one in a rural area. Shelter is keen to work with Dundee City Council as Dundee has a vibrant private rented sector and the Council's Private Sector Services Unit has well developed mechanisms in place to work with landlords.

The focus would be on landlords who are not operating within best practice principles but who are not of sufficient concern to warrant enforcement action. Therefore, this would offer an additional disposal or referral route for councils in seeking to improve standards in addition to more formal statutory processes.

The Private Renting Support Officer would work alongside the Council, Industry bodies and local housing bodies to offer support to landlords to improve practice and distil learning in a good practice toolkit. The projects would start from October 2015 and run for two and a half years.

The projects would be run by two staff (Private Renting Support Officers) recruited and employed by Shelter, they would be based within the Council to which they are attached, in Dundee the officer would work within the Council's Private Sector Services Unit. A local Steering Group would be established to oversee the project, setting the strategic goals and direction and to receive reports on progress.

Key tasks for the Private Renting Support Officer would be:

- Engaging with private landlords.
- Developing landlord improvement plans.
- Capture and evaluate key learning.
- Partnership working.

The posts would be fully funded by Shelter with no funding requirement from Dundee City Council. Dundee City Council would be expected to provide a local work base for the officers.

The project would offer a number of benefits to Dundee City Council including: additional capacity and resources, additional complementary resources to statutory interventions, problem solving and positive engagement with private sector landlords and a clear focus on a high growth sector.

Committee approval is requested to agree Dundee City Council's participation in a Local Landlord Support Project from October 2015.