

3 SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT - WORKING FOR FAMILIES PROJECT - ESTABLISHMENT OF FIXED TERM POST (AN41-2007)

Reference is made to Article IV of the meeting of the Economic Development Committee of 18th October, 2004, which advised that the Social Work Department Welfare Rights Service had been successful in the tender for the Money Advice Support Project, and to Article XI of this Committee of 13th December, 2004 which established two posts of Money Advice Workers.

Since establishment, the two Working for Families Money Advice Workers have delivered money advice, debt counselling, better off calculations, welfare rights support and benefits support to Working for Families clients, with a key focus on employability and moving clients along the pathway towards employment. However, clients also require education and knowledge of financial issues to enable them to make clear and positive choices, if in future they are to make sustainable financial decisions.

Working for Families is keen to support a programme of financial education/literacy for families most at risk from financial exclusion, where clients can improve financial capability through "information, education and advice". It is proposed that Working for Families fund an additional Money Advice Worker who will provide the capacity to offer additional financial education in conjunction with the two existing Money Advice Workers currently employed within the Welfare Rights Team.

Accordingly, the Committee is asked to approve the establishment of one post of Money Advice Worker, graded AP4 (£21,327 - £23,610), on a fixed term basis until 31st March, 2008.

The costs of the above proposal, including employer costs, will be £28,280 in a full financial year. This will be funded from the Working for Families budget awarded to the Council by the Scottish Executive.