

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 9th May 2011

REPORT ON: Dawson Park Partnering Agreement with Scottish Association of Mental Health

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 196-2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to make members aware of the proposal from the Scottish Association of Mental Health (SAMH) to work in partnership with Dundee City Council at Duntrune Demonstration Gardens in Dawson Park and to gain agreement for officers to enter into a Partnership Agreement with the organisation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 remit officers to enter into a Partnership Agreement with SAMH for the use of part of the Demonstration Gardens in Dawson Park and in and around the adjacent park.
- 2.2 note the vision, purpose and values of the organisation and the opportunities and the benefits of such a Partnership.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this proposal.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Duntrune Demonstration Garden, which is based in Dawson Park, provides a home for a number of voluntary groups who participate in and assist with the demonstration garden. The facility provides a focus for the park as well as promoting physical activity and wellbeing for the individuals and organisations involved.
- 4.2 A proposal to utilise part of the ground has come from a charitable organisation called Scottish Association of Mental Health, who have indicated that they could utilise a vacant plot of land for the production of wild flower plant material which can be used in the park with the surpluses sold on. In addition the group want to build on their success to date in delivering therapeutic horticultural, training and demonstrations to the public on the site. Their project called "Chrysalis" will provide vocational training for a number of trainees, both for:-
- SVQ Horticultural course, to be delivered in partnership with Dundee College;
 - John Muir Awards, Level I, II & III, with trainee gardeners given the opportunity to learn aspects of gardening, from general maintenance to nursery work.
- 4.3 There is the potential of extending the experience into selected sections of the park through a number of projects which will enhance the park. For example the development of the sunken garden and creation of a "John Muir Demonstration Garden", utilising the wild flower species and providing added interest and features for everybody to enjoy. Any proposed projects would be implemented in partnership with Departmental projects and will taking into account the local needs.

- 4.4 The Partnership therefore offers a number of benefits to the Council and SAMH including:-
- a professional focus within Dawson Park;
 - the potential of additional demonstrations from SAMH to the public;
 - the potential of enhancements and improvements to the park which could not normally be funded through the Council;
 - the potential of training individuals into horticulture and adding value to their wellbeing
 - offer any emerging "Friends" group in the parks the opportunity to get involved in local projects.

4.5 It is recommended that the appropriate officers enter into a partnership agreement which will define the role and area of work to be carried out by SAMH. In addition a monitoring process will be initiated so that the Council is able to ensure that in terms of potential opportunities and developments in Dawson Park, they are properly vetted and consulted on before being initiated.

4.6 It is recommended that a Partnership Agreement is for an initial five years with annual reviews is developed.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. No major issues have been identified.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

**STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES**

25 APRIL 2011