

REPORT TO: HOUSING, DUNDEE CONTRACT SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 24 MAY 2010

REPORT ON: FUNDING FOR DUNDEE WOMEN'S AID

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

REPORT NO: 249-2010

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To ask the Committee to approve the Service Level Agreement for Dundee Women's Aid (DWA) for Outreach Support with agreed funding for 2010/11.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee agrees the Service Level Agreement.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The funding that will be available during the period of the SLA will be as follows:

- 2009-2010 - £79,000
- 2010-2011 - £80,000
- 2011- 2012 - £80,000 (indicative)
- **TOTAL - £230,000**

There is an allowance of £80,000 in the 2010/11 Other Housing Revenue Budget. Future years funding (2011/12) will be subject to future budget approval, and DWA are aware of this.

4. **MAIN TEXT**

Dundee Women's Aid has a long history of providing accommodation and support for women who have been subject to domestic abuse in Dundee. Previously, the Council provided funding through two three-year Service Level Agreements (SLAs), the second of which expired in March 2009. These previous SLAs covered a wide range of activities, not just outreach support, but also the funding of an out of hours on call service, training, and campaigning.

Funding of DWA continued after March 2009 to maintain necessary services in the interim, until a point where the SLA could be agreed.

By the time the second of these SLAs expired, there was evidence that the out of hours on call service operated somewhat sporadically, and did not represent good value for money for the Council.

Similarly, funding arrangements for other activities, such as training, had changed, so that the Dundee Violence Against Women Partnership was receiving central government funding to provide training in Dundee, obviating the need for the Council to fund DWA for the same purpose.

Outreach support is designed to support a woman, whether she has been re-housed or continues to live in her original home, to maintain her tenancy, through emotional and practical support. The maintenance of a tenancy is far more straightforward and cost effective than dealing with a person who has become homeless and then needs to be re-housed. Such support plays a significant role in reducing repeat homelessness across the city.

In the light of a consideration of the needs of women suffering domestic abuse, it is recommended the Housing Department continues to provide the same level of funding, but to target it differently, providing £79,000 in 2009/10 purely on an expanded outreach support service, increasing to £80,000 for 2010/11. These financial implications have been allowed for in the "Other Housing Budget".

It is anticipated that funding for 2011/12 will be required at a similar level, but this will be considered along with other cost pressures and be presented to the Council as part of next year's budget setting process.

#### 5. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications. It supports the Council's objectives of providing support to victims of domestic abuse and reducing the number of homeless people in Dundee.

#### 6. **CONSULTATIONS**

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Finance, Assistant Chief Executive and all other Chief Officers have been consulted in the preparation of this report. No concerns were expressed.

#### 7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**ELAINE ZWIRLEIN**  
**DIRECTOR OF HOUSING**