

REPORT TO: HOUSING COMMITTEE JUNE 2006

REPORT ON: EXTENSION OF SUPPORTED TENANCY INITIATIVE  
UNDER ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR FUNDING 2006 - 2008

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

REPORT NO: 344-06

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1. This report seeks Members' authorisation to contract with an external agency to enhance housing support services to young tenants using funding secured from the Scottish Executive's antisocial behaviour funding arrangements, detailed in the Council's Outcome Agreement.
- 1.2. This service will be in addition to the mainstream housing support service provided by the Council.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. It is recommended that:
  - i. Members approve the bid from NCH to provide a mentoring and support service for young tenants. The service will investigate, develop and implement preventative and diversionary measures to combat the antisocial behaviour of young people.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. The costs of the service will be met in full by the funding awarded by the Scottish Executive to support the implementation of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004. The available funding for this project is as follows:
  - 2006/7 - £60,000
  - 2007/8 - £60,000

**4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

The service will have a positive impact on the following Local Agenda 21 themes:

- People live without fear of personal violence from crime.
- Health is protected by creating safe, clean and pleasant environments
- All sections of the community are empowered in decision making.
- The day to day protection from disturbance to a peaceful home is fostered.

## 5. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. The service aims to improve the lives of young people and help them to sustain tenancies in the communities of Dundee. This will benefit the population of the city as a whole. Young people will be encouraged to participate fully in their communities in which they may have been excluded. The service will seek to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour by and against young people and promote their community safety.

## 6. **BACKGROUND**

- 6.1. The report outlines two bids received from voluntary organisations seeking to provide a specialist housing support service for young tenants and recommends the acceptance of one bid with reasons.
- 6.2. Dundee's Community Plan 2005-2010 contains a commitment to reduce antisocial behaviour by young people particularly after 8 pm weekdays and at weekends.
- 6.3. The Council's Homelessness Strategy 2003-2006 identified as one of the main issues for young homeless people:

"The need for support services to help prevent young people being evicted for rent arrears or antisocial disputes".

The Council's Homelessness Strategy also contains a specific section on Youth Work which focuses strongly on preventative measures. One such initiative, which the Antisocial Behaviour Team has recently become involved in, is the HEAT Project which carried out training within schools and other educational establishments.

The Dundee Antisocial Behaviour Strategy contains the following key objectives:

"Prevention: Measures that will create an environment where ASB is less likely to arise".  
 "Intervention: Early identification of problems in relation to individuals or communities and ways to divert people from committing acts of ASB".

- 6.4. The proposed service will contribute to meeting the objectives of these plans and strategies by directly engaging with young people in their homes and supporting them in an holistic way. Young people encounter difficulties outwith the normal 9 to 5 Monday to Friday working week and the new service will provide support whenever young people need it.

## 7. **EVALUATION OF BIDS**

- 7.1. Both bids propose the implementation of a mentoring service aimed at supporting young people to prevent and divert from antisocial behaviour. Both contain elements of group work and are supported by volunteers. NCH has a proven track record through the following services:

- Dundee Families Project
- Dundee Intensive Support
- Dundee Youth Housing Support Services
- Tayside Arrest Referral
- Dundee Alternative to Custody

These services have been evaluated by independent consultants. Currently, Dundee Families Project is being evaluated by the Scottish Executive with a view to “rolling out “ nationally.

- 7.2. Both agencies have a good reputation through delivering high quality services and both have partnered the Council in various initiatives.
- 7.3. NCH already work in partnership with the ASBT through referrals to the Families Project and Dundee Youth Housing Support Services (including Cowan Grove) and in the Homeless field through joint referral arrangements with Housing and Social Work. TCA run a mentoring project with Youth Justice, while NCH are involved with Youth Justice through Dundee Alternative to Custody and Tayside Arrest Referral.
- 7.4. There are some similarities between the two proposed projects. However, for the reasons below it is proposed that the bid from NCH is accepted:
  - The 24-hour service offered by NCH would provide support for young tenants as and when they need it and offsets the higher staff costs proposed by NCH giving better value.
  - NCH have a track record of involvement with Young People with Housing and relationships with the ASBT are well-established.
  - NCH have an established track record of working with other key agencies, i.e. Housing Associations, Health, Education, Careers, DWP, etc.
  - NCH play a very active role within the Homeless Strategy both from a preventative and intervention perspective, i.e. currently leading the Sports Development Team from Youth Homeless Strategy.

## 8. **CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1. The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Depute Chief Executive (Finance).

## 9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Report No. 551-2005 POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 17 OCTOBER 2005  
DUNDEE ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY & LOCAL OUTCOME AGREEMENTS

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

21 June 2006~~24 June 2006~~~~08 June 2006~~

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