

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 18 November 2002

REPORT ON: HOME FROM HOME PAYMENTS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

REPORT NO: 818-2002

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to re-examine the payments made to short break carers who provide adults with short breaks through the Home from Home scheme.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:-

- 2.1 Agrees with effect from 1 December 2002 to increase payments to Home from Home carers as per appendix 2.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of this increase will be met from current revenue budget provision.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The further development of the Home from Home Scheme will contribute to the inclusion of people with disabilities in local communities

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The increased rate of payment will offer a realistic employment and skill enhancement opportunity within local communities for people who become short break carers with the Home from Home Scheme.

6 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 The Home from Home scheme was developed 14 years ago to provide a family based short break scheme for older people. The current scheme offers this service to all service user groups, in a flexible way which includes short breaks of a few hours per week, residential breaks in a Home from Home carers home, holiday escorts and short breaks in the service users home (see Appendix 1/Table 1). Short break carers are recruited, vetted, trained and accredited to provide these services. They are paid on a daily or half daily basis.

- 6.2 Increasing the allowance paid to short break carers would encourage increased recruitment. Recruitment has been an ongoing difficulty for Home from Home for many years and there are currently only three approved carers despite ongoing publicity and events. By increasing the rate of payment it is hoped to stimulate interest in the community and improve recruitment and retention of carers. The Home from Home scheme would seek to recruit 12 carers in total, over the coming financial year.
- 6.3 The increased range of services provided and service user groups catered for, (See Appendix 1/Table 2) mean that short break carers have to acquire a wider range of skills and perform a greater range of tasks than previously. In addition recent policy developments such as the National Care Standards have added to their duties. Increasing the rate of payment would better reflect these revised duties.
- 6.4 The rates of payment (as detailed in Appendix 1/Table 3) in other family based schemes are generally higher than that of the Home from Home scheme. The exceptions include Angus Home from Home which has had very limited success and currently only has one carer (who is approved by Dundee Home from Home). Perth & Kinross has no equivalent scheme.
- 6.5 The cost of living has increased over the years and short break carers can expect to incur up to £114.50 a week in expenses. This figure is based on the Inland Revenue's guidance for allowable expenses and includes expenses such as fuel, food and cleaning products. The payment to short break carers has remained constant at £145 per week since 1999. This means that the actual daily payment to carers after expenses are deducted equates to £4.36 per day. Increasing the weekly rate to £250 would give short break carers a daily rate of payment after expenses of £19.35. This would still represent good value for money for a 1 to 1 service provided in a homely environment.

7 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Social Work, Director of Finance, Director of Support Services and Director of Personnel and Management Services have been consulted on the preparation of this report.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

9 SIGNATURE

Alan G Baird
 Director of Social Work

Date

TABLE 1

Service	Setting	Duration	Hours of Service
Residential breaks for the service user on their own or with their carer	Service user's own home / short break carer's home	Up to 3 weeks	24 hrs
Escorted holidays for service users (on their own or with a carer)	Ordinary holiday setting	Up to 8 weeks	24 hrs
Short breaks in community (e.g. cinema visits / shopping trips or other activities)	Community	Up to 6 hrs	8am – 10pm
Short day breaks	Service user's own home/ short break carer's home	Up to 10 hrs	8am – 10pm

TABLE 2

Service User Groups who can access the Home from Home Service
Older People
Older People with Dementia
Adults with a Learning Disability
Adults with drug and alcohol difficulties
Adults with mental health difficulties
Adults with Physical disabilities
Adults with head injury
Other community care clients

TABLE 3

Family Based Scheme	Current Weekly Rate
Dundee Home from Home	£145
Falkirk Joint Dementia Initiative	£290
Share Project Lanarkshire	£217
Angus Home from Home	£150
Community Living Scheme Fife	£206.97-£298.98 (According to clients needs)
Perth & Kinross	N/A

APPENDIX 2

Service	Payment To Home from Home Carer	
	Current Payment	Proposed Payment
Break in carers home	£145 per week	£250
Short Break of less than a week	£20.72 per day	£35.72
Break in service users own home (weekly)	£145	£250
Holiday Escort	£145	£250
Short Break (community/own home/carers home) duration 0-3 hours	£10.35	£10.35
Short Break 3-6 hours	£20.72	£25
Short Break 6-24 hours	£20.72	£35.72