

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Personnel Committee - 8 March 2004

REPORT ON: Social Work Department - Developing Services for Children and Young People with Mental Health Issues

REPORT BY: Director of Social Work and Assistant Chief Executive (Management)

REPORT NO: 89-2004

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to develop the social work team within NHS Tayside's Centre for Child Health, by establishing posts of Senior Social Worker and Social Care Officer, to supplement the work currently undertaken by two existing posts of Social Worker.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee approves the establishment of the following posts for a fixed term period of 2 years:-

- 2.1 One post of Senior Social Worker, grade PO3-6 (£27,015 - £28,578);
- 2.2 One post of Social Care Officer, Residential Grade SCP16-23 (£14,535 - £17,340);

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of the proposals will be £74,000 in a full financial year and £13,333 in 2003/04. This will be met from Changing Children's Services Fund monies allocated to the Council by the Scottish Executive.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Child and adolescent mental health is an agreed priority for action within the Dundee Children's Services Plan and the Tayside Child Health Strategy.

- 6.2 In August 2003 the Scottish Executive approved the funding of a new arrangement for the provision of the social work contribution to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Dundee.
- 6.3 At present the Social Work Department has two posts of Social Worker, located in NHS Tayside's Centre for Child Health, which are managed as part of the Social Work Department's Child Health Team by a Senior Social Worker who is based elsewhere.
- 6.4 It is proposed to create a social work team, dedicated to child and adolescent mental health issues, committed to joint working and integrated service delivery within the Centre for Child Health.
- 6.5 The proposed team will consist of one new post of Senior Social Worker, the two existing posts of Social Worker, one new post of Social Care Officer. There is funding available for clerical support to the team.
- 6.6 The funds to enable these improvements are available for 2 years in the first instance, with the possibility of extension based on review. To allow the future consolidation of this team, the posts as described will be included in the department's overall spending review.
- 6.7 It is hoped that by the end of the funding period, the value of the enhanced team will be established; and means found to support the continuation of the social work (CAMH) service as proposed.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report. The appropriate trade unions have also been consulted.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 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 this report.

A Baird
Director of Social Work

27 February 2004

J C Petrie
Assistant Chief Executive (Management)

27 February 2004