

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Personnel and Management Services Committee - 20 October 2003

REPORT ON: Social Work Department - Establishment of Practice Teacher Post

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

REPORT NO: 632-2003

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report requests approval to establish one temporary Practice Teacher post for a period of eighteen months within the Social Work Department's Staff Development Service.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the establishment of one temporary Practice Teacher post for a period of eighteen months, graded PO1-4 (£24,888 - £27,015).

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of the above post will be £48,000 over the eighteen month period and will be fully funded from additional Scottish Executive grant and contributions from the University of Dundee.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The national shortage of qualified social workers has led to an initiative at Scottish Executive level to increase the number of social work placements.

- 6.2 Dundee City Council has recently recruited four social work trainees on the Social Work 'Fast track' scheme and will require eight additional placements next year. This post of Practice Teacher will provide the necessary supervision, teaching and assessment for these trainees and other students from Dundee University. The students will be placed with social work teams within the department.
- 6.3 The post will be one of two in the Tayforth area funded by additional monies from the Scottish Executive.
- 6.4 This post is funded by a group of agencies. Representatives from this group form The Practice Learning Management Group. Its function is to make sure that all stakeholders can influence how the work is performed and take responsibility for supporting it.
- 6.5 The Practice Learning Management Group will consider wider issues concerning the deployment of the practice teachers.
- 6.6 The day to day management of the Practice Teacher will be carried out by the Staff Development Officer within the Social Work Staff Development Service.

7 **CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, The Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), The Depute Chief Executive (Finance), and the trade unions have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

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

10 October 2003

J.C. Petrie
Assistant Chief Executive (Management)

10 October 2003