

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Social Work Committee - 20 March 2006

REPORT ON: Dundee Family Placement Service Smoking Policy - Progress Report

REPORT BY: Director of Social Work

REPORT NO: 198 - 2006

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The revised Family Placement Smoking Policy was presented to Social Work Committee in December 2005. The Committee agreed the contents of the policy and requested a review in 3 months. This report provides information on the policy implementation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:-

- 2.1 Note and approve the contents of the report.
- 2.2 Instruct the Director of Social Work to provide a further update to the Committee in December 2006.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Financial implications will be absorbed within existing budgets.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Health is protected by creating safe, clean, pleasant environments and services that emphasise prevention of illness as well as care for the sick.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Family Placements are provided for children and young people in need, who are some of the most vulnerable children in the city in terms of poor health.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 The revised Family Placement Smoking Policy stipulates that carers should not smoke in front of foster children and that all children under 5 years, or a child of any age with a known respiratory condition, should have a smoke free environment. This would generally mean placing under 5's with non-smokers unless the carer guaranteed only to smoke outwith the home.

- 6.2 The policy also states that children and young people should not be allowed to smoke within the foster home and be actively discouraged from smoking by their carers.
- 6.3 Information on the harmful effects of passive smoking are now included in preparation programmes for prospective foster carers and adopters. Leaflets on passive smoking have been sent to all foster carers alongside information on the services offered via the Looked After Children Nurse on the supports that can be offered locally to those wishing to stop smoking.
- 6.4 All foster carers and adopters approved since the implementation of the revised policy have given a written undertaking to comply with the policy.
- 6.5 Of the 27 smoking households identified at the time of the consultation 25 are now indicating they will comply with the policy. This is an increase of 12 households. Two carers have stopped smoking.
- 6.6 Of the 2 households who are indicating they will not comply, none are approved for children under the age of 5 years.
- 6.7 The remaining 2 households consist of households who are offering long-term/permanent placements to young people aged 13 - 15 years.
- 6.8 In order to progress towards a situation of full compliance with the smoking policy the Family Placement Service will continue to work with these 2 carers to try to reduce the effect of their smoking on the young people in their care and, when the current placements end, to review with the carers their continued approval.

7.0 CONSULTATION

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

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Alan G Baird
Director of Social Work

Date: 10 March 2006