

REPORT TO: HOUSING, DUNDEE CONTRACT SERVICES AND
ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE -
14 JUNE 2010

REPORT ON: HOUSING EDUCATION FOR YOUTHS (HEY!)
PROJECT

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

REPORT NO: 299-2010

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1. The purpose of this report is to ensure the continuing delivery of the HEY! Project within secondary schools within the City.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

2.1. Agree the contents of this report.

2.2. Remit the Director of Housing to work in partnership with Action for Children (AFC) in relation to both funding and management of the HEY! Project.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1. This project will be funded from Action for Children surpluses. There are no financial implications for either Council Tax or Housing Revenue funding.

3.2. The proposed budget for this project is:

- 2010/11 - £72,752
- 2011/12 - £68,713

3.3. To ensure best use of these resources it is recommended that the above monies be used to ensure continuation and development of the HEY! project.

4. MAIN TEXT

4.1. HEY! is a housing education programme for young adults. The aim of this project is to prepare young people for an important transition in their life and education them to become responsible tenants. The focus of this project is to work towards tenancy sustainment, prevention of antisocial behaviour and to educate these youths and give them the skills necessary to avoid homelessness occurring.

- 4.2. HEY! Dundee is a partnership between Dundee City Council Homeless Services Unit, Antisocial Behaviour Team, Social Work Department, Hillcrest Housing Association, Home Scotland and Action for Children.
- 4.3. A pilot project has already been run in several schools across the City to around 200 young people. Facilitators from each of the organisations have delivered, in schools, the education programme's 4 modules:
- i. **Leaving Home** - the advantages and disadvantages.
 - ii. **Budgeting and Benefits** - the real cost of your own place.
 - iii. **Getting on with Neighbours** - the consequences of antisocial behaviour.
 - iv. **Homelessness** - how and where to get assistance.
- 4.4. Preparing young people from the third year upwards for the challenges of the future requires us to ensure that when they leave school, the span of learning and achievements is captured in a way that does justice to them and is relevant to the world beyond school.
- 4.5. In order to achieve our aspirations for all young people to become responsible citizens, successful learners, effective contributors and confident and resilient individuals, young people need the knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes which will help them to maximise their potential.
- 4.6. The project innovatively engages young people in experiences beyond the traditional curriculum, which will develop their capabilities and attributes and enable them to recognise their own achievement and success.
- A change in developing and understanding of life skills is crucial. Each young person has the right and the responsibility to make informed choices about their future. After gathering knowledge and understanding about, financial services, housing, personal safety and health, community values and expectations, healthy lifestyles, lifelong learning and sustainable employment, they will be better equipped to take that next step on their journey from school life into stable and sustainable adulthood.
- 4.7. The project is delivered by working practitioners who have the skills and knowledge from many years of experience on the 'chalk face' to make learning and understanding recent, relevant and meaningful.
- Although the partners mentioned above, have provided staff members as facilitators to date and will continue to do so, other work commitments and pressure has seen other essential tasks associated with the project, eg publicity work, programme development, content enhancement, project evaluation, consultation with stakeholders, delivery development, project expansion and the administrative work not being addressed.
- 4.8. Referrals come from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th year pupils in Dundee schools generally, but more specifically those that are thought to be at risk of entering the More Choices More Chances pathway.

- 4.9. We are seeking funding to employ a Project Co-ordinator who will be responsible for:
- Expanding the project further to cover all 10 secondary schools, creating a rolling programme to cover 5 secondary schools per annum.
 - Encouraging schools to mainstream the programme delivering the programme to community based projects, youth groups, local college and university students and possibly agencies such as private landlords.
 - Expanding the programme, in conjunction with others, to include healthy living and lifestyles, childcare issues, routes into work, training, volunteering and lifelong learning, community values and expectations, personal safety and the safety of others consulting widely on the programme and collecting feedback on outcomes, ensuring the programme becomes sustainable.
- 4.10. This is also an exciting opportunity to offer a young person the post of Trainee Support Worker. Working within a fully developed Youth Project and in partnership with Dundee City Council, the trainee would gain the experience and skills to further a career in this field. Training and qualifications will be delivered on site.
- 4.11. HEY! Dundee will make a difference in the following ways:
- To provide knowledge and skills to allow young people to make an informed choice of their housing options in the social and private rented sectors and also the implications of leaving the parental home.
 - To focus on giving detailed information to young people to ensure they have the ability to maintain and sustain a tenancy covering a number of areas including financial responsibilities and legal responsibilities including the terms of a Tenancy Agreement and the short and long term implications of poor tenancy management.
- To adopt a proactive approach in the prevention of homelessness and avoidance of antisocial behaviour.
- 4.12. This project will link with and support the following key strategies:
- Integrated Childrens' Services Plan.
 - Youth Justice Theme Group.
 - Homelessness Strategy.
 - Antisocial Behaviour Strategy.
 - Anti Poverty Strategy, and
 - Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

5. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

6. **CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1. The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Finance, Assistant Chief Executive and all other Chief Officers have been consulted on this report. No concerns have been expressed.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

ELAINE ZWIRLEIN
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

MAY 2010