

REPORT TO: Housing Committee – 18 December 2000

REPORT ON: Dundee Youth Housing Strategy 2000-2003

REPORT BY: Director of Housing

REPORT NO.: 756-2000

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To seek the Committee's continued approval of the revised strategy produced in partnership by the Youth Housing Strategy Group.
- 1.2. To present the Strategy's updated Action Plan for the period 2000-2003.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that Committee approve the Youth Housing Strategy and updated Action Plan for 2000-2003 (see Appendix I).

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. There will be no increase in the cost of ongoing funding to projects providing accommodation and support to young single homeless people as contained within existing Other Housing budgets.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The objectives of the Youth Housing Strategy are consistent with a number of key Dundee 21 Themes; including access to good food, water, shelter and fuel at a reasonable cost; health is protected; access to the skills, knowledge and information needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Participation in the Youth Housing Strategy fulfils the Council's commitment to assist those in need by ensuring that accommodation and care is available for vulnerable young people.

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1. The Council's commitment to meeting the needs of young, single homeless people in Dundee was reinforced in August 1998, when the Housing Committee adopted the Dundee Single Homeless Housing Strategy 1998-2001.
- 6.2. The outcome was a 3 year Action Plan, detailing over 40 projects, designed to reflect the changing circumstances and priorities in the city, and emphasise the benefits of resettlement for single homeless people.
- 6.3. During the 1999 Review of the Action Plan by the Single Homeless Strategy Group, 7 projects were identified as requiring specialist development to meet the needs of young and vulnerable, single homeless people in Dundee.

7. THE DUNDEE YOUTH HOUSING STRATEGY 2000-2003

- 7.1. To devise the Youth Housing Strategy, members of the Single Homeless Strategy Group, led by the Housing Department, remitted a dedicated Working Group to address the accommodation and support needs for 16 to 21 year olds in Dundee, and incorporate the above projects into the Youth Housing Strategy.
- 7.2. The new Strategy and original Action Plan was adopted by the Housing Committee in December 1999.
- 7.3. The Youth Housing Strategy Group, with representatives from The "Corner" Young Peoples' Health and Information Project, NCH Action for Children, The Outreach and Resettlement Team, Dundee Consortium for Young People Leaving Care, Social Work, Neighbourhood Resources Development and Housing Departments, has implemented Dundee's first Youth Housing Strategy during 2000.
- 7.4. The Youth Housing Strategy is designed to reduce youth homelessness and addresses 5 areas: Information and Advice on Accommodation and Services, Ongoing Needs Assessment and Client Profiling, Accommodation, Support Services and Co-ordination/Monitoring.
- 7.5. Following consideration of the objectives, the Action Plans and the membership, the Youth Housing Strategy Group has combined with the Development and Implementation Group of the Children's Services Plan 1998-2001: Services for Young People Affected by Homelessness.
- 7.6. The Youth Housing Strategy Group name has been retained, and the membership and Action Plan consolidated to eliminate duplication of effort and resources. The Action Plan enables the Council to meet their duties to 'children in need', as identified by the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 by addressing the needs of vulnerable young people affected by homelessness.
- 7.7. To conduct the review in November 2000, the Group considered and agreed that the following **statement** and objectives should continue to drive Dundee's Youth Housing Strategy and updated Action Plan (see Appendix 1):

No one agency can provide the comprehensive range of services a vulnerable young person requires to achieve independence. To meet these needs positively, the following objectives underpin Dundee's strategy.

- i. to involve all appropriate agencies to assess needs and co-ordinate provision of accommodation, advice and support services, to meet individual requirements.
- ii. agencies will work collaboratively to involve young people in future housing and service planning.
- iii. agencies will work collaboratively to increase the range of housing and support options available to young people.
- iv. to bring forward and develop models of accommodation and support, to enable young people to take responsibility and successfully negotiate change from dependence to independence in the community.
- v. to improve access to accommodation and ensure consistent treatment, and equal opportunities in services for young people.
- vi. to extend the provision of good quality, accessible information and advocacy services to prevent youth homelessness occurring and recurring.

8. **PROGRESS**

- 8.1. The success of the Youth Housing Strategy during 2000 and the developments contained in the Action Plan for 2000-2003 can be seen in the following achievements:
- 8.1.1. An **evaluation of accommodation need** and current and future provision was completed to inform future service planning for young homeless people.
- 8.1.2. A programme and preferred model for the development of **Dundee's Foyer** has been agreed by the Youth Housing Strategy Group, linking accommodation, support, education and training for employment projects.
- 8.1.3. To replicate successful elements of Aberdeen and Cumbernauld foyers, while meeting local need, the Group agreed external funding be investigated to appoint a Co-ordinator, responsible for developing central facilities with limited supported accommodation on site, as well as cluster and dispersed flats. Consultation will be conducted with young people to generate a name and identity for Dundee's Foyer, providing up to 32 homes for 16-21 year olds.
- 8.1.4. There is support from Housing Associations, private landlords and employment training/education providers for a vibrant partnership project to be developed in Dundee over the Youth Housing Strategy Action Plan period.
- 8.1.5. The Corner Young People's Health and Information Project **has been awarded funding** from the Rough Sleepers Initiative, to produce training to address the mental health and lifeskills needs of young homeless men in Dundee.
- 8.1.6. An **application has been submitted** to Scottish Homes Homepoint for 3 years' revenue funding. If successful, this will introduce a new Young Person's Housing Advice and Information Service to prevent and alleviate local youth homelessness.

9. **MONITORING**

- 9.1. The Youth Housing Strategy Group, will continue to monitor progress at bi monthly meetings. The Strategy will be reviewed annually, and revised every 3 years. Accountability will be sustained through annual progress reports to Housing Committee.
- 9.2. The parts of the Strategy which relate to vulnerable young people will be incorporated in Dundee City Council's Children's Services Plan 2001-2004, to be published in 2001, which is also subject to annual progress review.

10. **CONSULTATION**

- 10.1. The members of Dundee Single Homeless Strategy Group, as well as Directors and Chief Officers have been consulted on the contents of this report.

11. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1. The following were approved by the Housing Committee.

Rough Sleepers Initiative 2000-2002: November 1999.
 Dundee Single Homeless Housing Strategy Review 1999: November 1999.
 Dundee Youth Housing Strategy 2000-2003, December 2000.
 Dundee Single Homeless Housing Strategy Review 2000, November 2000.
 Rough Sleepers Initiative 2000 – 2001, November 2000.

ELAINE ZWIRLEIN
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

Signed _____
Date _____

DUNDEE YOUTH HOUSING STRATEGY 2000-2003
ACTION PLAN COMBINED WITH SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY HOMELESSNESS

ACTIVITY	Target/Status
Accommodation provision –develop range – dispersed Foyer, Housing Associations, Private Sector Emphasis on supported models, furnished options, to meet assessed need.	2000/2001 Achieved 2001/2002 Review
Partnership development of Safe House for those with challenging behaviour	2001/2002
Improve access for 18-21 year-olds displaying vulnerability triggers	2001/2002
Ensure Council house allocations appropriate to meet needs of 16-18 year olds (with support)	2000/2001 Reviewed 2001/2002 Progress
Assistance on Housing & Welfare Benefits, Community Care Grants and Furniture Packs	2001/2002 Review
Undertake joint assessments of need, develop Key Worker system / Care Plans	2001/2002 Review
Joint Protocols agreed between Housing / Social Work Dept – referrals for integrated service delivery	2001/2002 Review
Review Best Practice – compile Tenancy Readiness Index	2001/2002 Review
Youth Support Worker – apply for funds. Life Skills Training & Advice/Information Provision.	2000/2001 Achieved 2001/2002 Progress
One member of Social Work Staff based at Lily Walker Centre	2001/2002 Review
Undertake Best Practice review / Devise effective joint evaluation methods	2001/2002 Review
Quantify and agree response to needs of those not in care before 16 th birthday (Hsg/SWD/NRDD/Ed.Dpts/HAs)	2001/2002 Review
Liaise with other local authorities on provision for those not from Dundee	2001/2002 Review
Liaison with The Corner to ensure accessible and comprehensive Information/Advocacy services	2001/2002 Review
Publicise services: NCH; OAR; CHT; Sal Army; Furniture Project	2001/2002 Review
Partnership working on awareness raising (Info on Applications/Vettings) prevention sessions in schools and with groups	2001/2002 Review
Devise methods for participation and service planning. e.g. Youth Housing Forum	2001/2002 Review
Pilot project – track duration of new DCC tenancies, lets to 16-21 year-olds	2001/2002 Review
Evaluation report to Housing Committee annually	2000/2001 Achieved 2001/2002 Review

WJ/PPU

November 2000