

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Personnel and Management Services Committee - 10 February 2003

REPORT ON: Development of the Home Care Service - Practical Service Supports

REPORT BY: Director of Social Work and Director of Personnel and Management Services

REPORT NO.: 79-2003

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report proposes the development of practical support services for older people and other vulnerable adults who require assistance to carry out household maintenance tasks to be able to remain in their own home. This service is complementary to the arrangements already agreed by the Council to support homeowners, the Care and Repair Service, and will be targeted to tenants of the city council and other social landlords. This proposal is consistent with the recommendations in the report of the Joint Future group.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee approves the establishment of:-

- 2.1 8 Practical Support Worker posts, 30 hours per week, MW3 (£5.36 per hour);
- 2.2 1 post of Home Care Organiser, AP3 (£16,673 - £18,296).

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The full year costs of this proposal is £117,000 in a full financial year. This will be met from additional resources allocated by the Scottish Executive to invest in home based services.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This service development supports community safety initiatives and underpins the health improvement strategy through directly tackling problems and issues to reduce risk within the homes of vulnerable adults.

5 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This service development supports vulnerable adults to remain at home and provides support to carers to undertake essential minor household maintenance tasks.

6 **MAIN TEXT**

6.1 **Practical support service**

6.1.1 The report of the Joint Future group highlighted findings from national research in to the needs of older people commissioned by the Kings Fund and Age Concern which showed that many older people require the support of practical services in order to maintain the fabric of their houses. Age and frailty often prevent them from undertaking basic household routines which can cause anxiety and concern, as well as presenting health and safety hazards in their daily living.

6.1.2 The council has already agreed to the realignment of the provision of practical support through the home care service for shopping, laundry, meals and housework. This proposal relates to the need for support to undertake tasks which require more intensive labour, specific household maintenance skills and which have manual handling and other health and safety implications.

6.1.3 The council already supports homeowners through the Care and Repair service and meets landlord obligations in respect of maintaining the fabric of the building. This proposal seeks to supplement and complement these services by affording tenants access to a household maintenance team who can undertake minor repairs, heavy housework, shift heavy furniture and carry out health and safety checks, providing simple advice to encourage the prevention of avoidable falls.

6.1.4 These teams will be aligned with the locality based home care teams established in Report No. 748-2001.

6.2 **Peripatetic support teams**

6.2.1 Currently, the council Home Care service has no capacity to undertake tasks such as minor household repairs, moving heavy furniture, taking down and cleaning blinds or curtains, cleaning carpets, replacing light bulbs, stair cleaning or path clearing in the winter. These are tasks which many frail older people are unable to undertake for themselves and which may result in a significant deterioration of the house perhaps leading to health and safety risks

6.2.2 Further, there are an increasing number of households being identified through risk assessments where the deterioration in fabric or maintenance presents hazards not only to the occupant but also to the workforce providing care and support, e.g. through worn carpets, electrical equipment or plugs requiring attention. This proposal envisages providing a home visiting service which would undertake a basic health and safety check together with providing simple advice or assistance to deal with hazards, such as frayed carpets, poor lighting or visibility, unsafe storage of cleaning materials, and ensuring the timeous reporting of repairs to the Housing Department or other landlord. These steps will contribute to reducing accidents in the home and will complement other initiatives to reduce the likelihood of slips, trips and falls - a major cause of hospitalisation through fractures.

6.3 **Criteria for access to this service**

6.3.1 This service is not seen as a replacement or substitute for existing repair and maintenance services. The service will only be provided for older people *who have been assessed* as having support needs which require to be met through the provision of home care services.

7 **CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Finance and the relevant trade unions have all been consulted about the content 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 confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

J.C. Petrie
Director of Personnel and Management Services

27 January 2003

Alan G. Baird
Director of Social Work

27 January 2003

Appendix B**Financial Appendix**

Staffing	FTE	Hours	SCP	Salary £	Full Year £
Home Care Organiser	1.0	37.0	26	18,296	18,300
Practical Support Worker	6.5	240.0	MW3	278.96	67,000
	7.5				85,300
NI & Superannuation					14,200
					99,500
Non Staff Costs					
Basic Vehicles (4)	12,000				
Fuel	3,840				
Office Costs	1,660				17,500
				Total Cost	117,000
				FUNDING:	
				Joint Future Money	117,000