

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE – 7 APRIL 2015**

**HOME SUPPORT SERVICE CLOSURE**

**REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - PEOPLE**

**ABSTRACT**

This Report sets out the proposed timeline for the cessation of the in-house Home Support service

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approves the timeline for the cessation of the home support service, ending the service in October 2015.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- i) We have improved the health and wellbeing of our people and inequalities are reduced.
- ii) Individuals are supported in their own communities with good quality services

**3. BACKGROUND**

The Home Support Service, previously known as Home Help, is a domestic cleaning service provided by Angus Council.

Angus Council Report 84/14 (Provisional Revenue Budget) approved a saving of £752,000 from the home support budget, an amount equal to the whole cost of the service. The report also detailed the savings in staff costs, equivalent to 43.8 FTE posts. This report provided for a reduction in the service over time, with the service ending in April 2016.

Angus Council Report 60/15 (Provisional Revenue Budget) brought forward this savings target to a point of service closure during the financial year 2015/16 and revised the total saving upward slightly by £3,000. Angus Council also instructed that a report be brought to Social Work and Health Committee outlining the closure process. This report proposes that this closure process is concluding by 30 October 2015.

During February 2015 briefings took place with staff and Trade Unions advising them of the proposed closure and letters were sent out to all service users explaining the change.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

The Home Support service provides a domestic cleaning service to approximately 630 people within Angus with 43.8 FTE staff. The service has reduced over time from a budget of £951,000 in 2007/08 to £605,000 today.

A review of the 31 other Scottish local authorities shows that only 5 of them provide a home support service similar to Angus Council. Some however provide domestic cleaning only as part of a high level personal care package.

## 5. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that the Home Support service will close on 30 October 2015. This closure will be carried out in line with Angus Council's Managing Workforce Change Policy (<http://intranet/EmployeeMatters/Pages/Managing-Workforce-Change.aspx>). The bringing forward of the closure date from its original date of April 2016 is necessary because the gradual shrinking of the service will lead to a position before then when its continued delivery becomes untenable and the position for service users and staff unsustainable. The October end date allows enough time for service user reviews to take place and for staff considerations to be taken into account, in line with Angus Council's Managing Workforce Change Policy.

Key milestones will be:

- SDS assessments for service users ongoing throughout period
- Meetings with staff, collectively and individually, April to July 2015
- Individual and collective outcomes for staff identified, beginning August 2015
- Service closes 31 October 2015

All current service users will receive an SDS assessment and may choose to purchase Home Support through their SDS delivery package.

Discussions are ongoing between Angus Council and partners to explore the feasibility of Home Support being a social enterprise development following cessation of the Council service.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Based on the cost of the service in April 2015, following some savings being achieved in 2014/15, the savings are now £605,000 in total. This is after realising a saving of £150,000 in 2014/15 giving a total savings target of £755,000. There may however be some costs associated with salary conservations or ER/VR and redundancy costs which will be met by the service thus delivery of the saving is phased over 2015/16 (£229,000) and 2016/17 (£376,000) respectively.

## 7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Strategic Director - Communities, Head of Corporate Improvement & Finance and Head of Legal & Democratic Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Committee Report 84/14 - Provisional Revenue Budget
- Committee Report 60/15 - Provisional Revenue Budget

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