

## EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

### HOUSING COMMITTEE – 2 NOVEMBER 2005

#### EAST AYRSHIRE CARE AND REPAIR PROJECT

##### Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the current position regarding progress of the East Ayrshire Care and Repair scheme which provide services to elderly and vulnerable home owners.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Housing Committee on 12 September 2001 approved the establishment of a Steering Group to take forward a pilot care and repair project for East Ayrshire.
- 2.2 That Steering Group comprised of the National Coordinator for the Care and Repair Forum, representatives from the Elderly Forum, the Disability Forum, NHS Ayrshire and Arran and the members of an inter-agency officers Working Group.
- 2.3 The Housing Committee on 11 September 2002 agreed the need to establish a pilot project in Dalmellington. The pilot Care and Repair project was completed in September 2004. Following an assessment of the initial outcomes of the pilot scheme by elected members at the Housing Committee meeting held on 8 September 2004, it was agreed that the project be rolled out across the whole of East Ayrshire.
- 2.4 Following tender completion of a successful external tendering process, a contract for the development of a Care and Repair service across East Ayrshire, to include an Approved Contractor List and Small Repair Service, was awarded to Shire Housing Association and was launched in January 2005 following a range of media advertising.

### 3. EVALUATION OF PROGRESS

#### 3.1 Grant Eligible Works

The East Ayrshire wide project has dealt with a total of 50 major grant related cases up to 30 September 2005.

Status	Units	Grant (£)	Other Sources (£)	Total Value (£)
Work Completed	13	55550.90	7306.71	62857.61
Work Committed	18	44319.31	9342.58	53661.89
Work in Progress	12	-	-	-

Withdrawn	7	-	-	-
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### 3.2 Small Repair Service

Again, to 30 September 2005 the Small Repair Service has recorded 174 cases.

	Total	Withdrawn	Completed	Total Cost (£)	Client Contributions (£)	In Progress
Small Repairs	174	4	120	5514.04	878.60	50
Electrical		1	28			7
Plumbing		1	35			19
Joinery		2	17			8
Roofing		-	31			3
Central heating		-	1			2
Builder works		-	2			2
Windows		-	5			5
Miscellaneous		-	1			4

Client surveys record a high level of satisfaction with this service, with a number of repeat clients.

### 3.3 Advice Cases

35 advice cases involving advice or referrals to other agencies have been recorded.

### 3.4 Approved Contractor List

An Approved Contractor List has been developed and is maintained by the project.

### 3.5 Home Safety / Security

64 cases involving home safety and security have been recorded. External funding in the sum of £2,000 each from Strathclyde Fire Brigade and the Community Health Practices has been awarded to the project, and is almost fully committed. A further sum of £2,000 has been received from Strathclyde Fire Brigade for the continued installation of home safety and security measures.

## 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

### 4.1 Capital and Revenue Funding

4.1.1 As reported to the Housing Committee on 26 January 2005, Private Sector Housing Grant (PSHG) has been awarded in the sum of £150,000 for the provision of Care and Repair services in 2005/2006.

4.1.2 As at 30 September 2005, £65,011 has been spent, with a further £44,319 committed.

4.1.3. Revenue funding supports the provision of both a Care and Repair Officer and a Small Repairs Assistant for the project, to assist in the development of the Small Repairs service across the authority area.

## **5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/ IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Shire Housing Association, as managing organisation, is the corporate body with employment, legal and financial responsibility for the full project.
- 5.2 An agreement between Shire Housing Association and East Ayrshire Council will regulate the terms and conditions of funding and all other aspects of the project.

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 With a focus on a co-ordinated approach to meeting community care needs, Care and Repair assists in achieving Community Care, Health and Housing policy objectives, as reported in the Scottish Executive document 'Working Together on Care and Repair A Strategic View', dated 2001.
- 6.2 The expansion of the Care and Repair project supports the promotion of the aims of care in the community and responds to house condition issues within the private sector for vulnerable clients, providing cost effective solutions, thereby contributing to Social Inclusion, in accordance with the requirements of the East Ayrshire Community Plan 2003-2015 and Local Housing Strategy 2004-2009.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The expansion of the Care and Repair project provides cost-effective services, helping to sustain those people at greatest risk of social exclusion to live independently in better housing within the community, thereby avoiding the need for more institutional forms of care.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Committee are recommended to:
  - i. note that a further report on progress will be brought to a future Committee meeting for consideration.
  - ii. otherwise note the contents of the report.

William Stafford  
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

CMCA/DB/LA

10 October 2005

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Scottish Executive Working Together on Care and Repair A Strategic View, 2001.
2. Communities Scotland Care & Repair A Good Practice Guide, March 2002.
3. Scottish Executive Care and Repair Guidance and Standards, August 2004.
4. Shire Housing Association Report to Steering Group 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 576617 and ask for Joseph Cassidy, Policy Manager.

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