

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

HOUSING COMMITTEE - 18 APRIL 2000

ROUGH SLEEPERS INITIATIVE

Report by Director of Homes and Technical Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to provide members with details of the funding awarded jointly to East, North and South Ayrshire Councils under the Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI), and of developments in relation to the joint project.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Scottish Executive confirmed on 22nd February, 2000 that a collaborative bid for RSI funding, submitted by the three Ayrshire Authorities had been successful and that joint funding was to be awarded.

3. GRANT AWARD

- 3.1** Initially the Councils were advised that funding of £504,160 had been jointly awarded for outreach work. This figure has however subsequently been increased to £646,093, equating to £322,258 in year 1 and £323,835 in year 2.
- 3.2** A proposal for capital works in year 1, for refurbishment of private properties in South Ayrshire, was not considered justified and funding was not awarded.
- 3.3** Some adjustments to the outreach and support proposals, contained in the bid, have been made. It is not considered appropriate by the Scottish Executive for the RSI to fund a welfare benefits officer. This cost has therefore been excluded. The cost of an additional half time outreach worker has been included for the development of advice and/or support services for prisoners in Kilmarnock Prison.

4. PROJECT STATUS

- 4.1** While it has been agreed that 2 Support Workers will be based within East Ayrshire, a revised staffing structure, necessitated by adjustments to outreach and support proposals, is presently under consideration by the partner organisations. Partners to the project are East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Councils, Scottish Homes, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and Rowan Alba Association, a voluntary organisation providing support services

- 4.2** In addition to the requirement for an administrative base for Support Staff located in East Ayrshire, officers of this Authority are presently in discussions with Rowan Alba regarding the provision of supported accommodation.
- 4.3** It is proposed that an early meeting be held with representatives the Primary Health Care Trust, in order to ensure that 3 Health Workers included within the project are most effectively deployed.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** There are no immediate financial implications for the authority, as indicated in the report of 26th January, 2000. Any additional cost associated with the provision of furnished accommodation will be met from the approved budgets within the HRA.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** There are no legal implications.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

James Lavery
Director of Homes and Technical Services
JC/WT
6 April 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND

Nil

For further information please contact Joe Cassidy, Policy Manager on 01563 576617

AGENDA