

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **HOUSING COMMITTEE – 8 NOVEMBER 2000**

#### **ROUGH SLEEPERS INITIATIVE**

##### **Report by Director of Homes and Technical Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to up-date members on the current position of the Rough Sleepers Initiative.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. In January 2000 the authority made a collaborative bid, with its partners in North and South Ayrshire for Rough Sleepers Initiative funding for the years 2000/2001 and 2001/2002.
- 2.2. The Scottish Executive confirmed in February 2000 that the bid was successful and that £646,093 had been jointly awarded to the three authorities for the two-year period.

### **3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1. As indicated in the report to the Housing Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2000 it was the partners' intention to appoint two support workers to the East Ayrshire area. Rowan Alba, the voluntary organisation who are the managers of the project, have appointed two staff and they are now in post.
- 3.2. In regard to the health workers, two posts are currently being advertised. This is a reduction of one post over that originally planned for. This is due to the increased costs of the appropriate nursing grade, recommended by the health board.
- 3.3. In addition to the original proposals, the Health Board has advised the partners that additional funds are available to support the health aspect of the project. It is proposed that these additional funds will be used to fit out a mobile health vehicle for the use of the two health workers. This will ensure that basic health advice and assistance can be made available to clients at their location and therefore avoid them having to travel to health facilities, which in a number of situations they are unwilling to do.
- 3.4. In line with the proposals set out in the submission to the Scottish Executive and reported to the Housing Committee, housing accommodation has been identified for use by the project by the department. Five flats have been identified in central Kilmarnock. These have been brought up to appropriate standard by the department and Rowan Alba is in the process of furnishing them. Four flats will provide temporary furnished accommodation for clients with the fifth providing an office base for the support and health workers. Rowan Alba is currently in discussion with the authority in regard to change of

use. The properties are to be let to Rowan Alba at standard council house rent levels.

- 3.5. While officers of the Council meet with their partners and Rowan Alba, as a steering group, each quarter, a local monitoring group has been set up for the East Ayrshire part of the project. This group meets on a monthly basis and deals with any issues surrounding the management of the project within East Ayrshire. This group comprises of officers from Homes & Technical Services and the local management of Rowan Alba.
- 3.6. Once the project has established itself within the northern area of the authority, it is the department's intention to establish similar furnished accommodation in the south. From analysis of homeless presentations it is likely that the accommodation would be situated within the town of Cumnock. Meantime Rowan Alba is providing an outreach surgery facility on a weekly basis in Cumnock. This surgery is located in the Youth Information Project (YIP).

#### **4. FINANCIAL**

- 4.1. As indicated in the previous report no additional costs beyond general maintenance and refurbishment have arisen and these have been contained within current budget. It is not anticipated that this situation will change.
- 4.2. In the long term there may be a request for the council to consider mainstreaming this provision, which would be subject to a full evaluation at that time.

#### **5. LEGAL**

- 5.1. An agreement is currently being progressed between North, South and East Ayrshire Councils and Rowan Alba to regulate funding of the project and its administration.
- 5.2. Tenancy agreements are also being finalised in respect of the properties to be let to Rowan Alba.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1. That the members note the current situation in regard to the Rough Sleepers Project.
- 6.2. That a further progress report be submitted in due course.

James Lavery,  
Director of Homes and Technical Services  
25 October 2000

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

For further information please contact Joseph Cassidy, Policy Manager, 01563 576617.

**AGENDA**