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## DAY CENTRES FOR OLDER PEOPLE – FUNDING REVISION PAPER

### 1. Reason for Report

1.1 This report is presented to Elected Members to advise them of the particular circumstances of the Day Centres for Older People and to request on behalf of the day centres, a granting of the full year's budget for 2006/07, within the first financial quarter of 2006.

1.2 The author of the report recognises that this is outwith the terms agreed by the Ad-Hoc Sub Committee and this paper sets out to explain why special consideration should be given to the day centres for older people.

### 2. Background

2.1 The nine day centres for older people have been established as Voluntary Sector Organisations with separate Management Committees. They provide a range of services to older people in Dumfries and Galloway and are widely recognised for the work that they do. The Management Committees are largely supported by retirees who provide a considerable amount of time to support the day centres on a voluntary basis.

2.2 With the change in funding within the Voluntary Sector Adult Services Day Centre budget from £420,585 in 2005/06 to £433,203 in 2006/07, day centres for older people are receiving significantly less than they had applied for in 2006/07 as most funding requests were higher than the previous application. The day centres are at this time coping with increased levels of charges for fuel and transport bills and increasingly high and costly standards, set nationally, in terms of health and safety, equipment, and training for staff. Consequently they are struggling to provide the same level of support as in previous years.

2.3 The day centres have regular business and support contacts with the lead officer for these services, who has been working actively and closely with them over the past year to resolve concerns. The lead officer is very aware of the pressures being faced by the day centres.

2.4 The lead officer and representatives from day centres' Management Committees consider that the pressures faced by day centres are so severe that the means of 'making or breaking' the day centre services can be influenced by when the resources are issued. If the full 100% of funding can be released within the first quarter of 2006/07, then the day centres will be able to benefit from the interest that will accrue in their business account over the course of the year. This interest can be offset against the budget granted to the day centres. The interest accrued will give the day centres the ability to sustain their services and maintain good level of support for older people, within the reduced budget. It is accepted, however, that this argument could be put forward by the majority of organisations receiving voluntary sector funding.

### 3. Funding

3.1 The day centres will be on a stronger financial footing if 100% of the funding for 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09 budgets is made available within the first quarter of each financial year. The lead officer will monitor throughout the year the services being provided by day centres for older people to ensure that spend is appropriate and in keeping with the aims of the application for funding. The lead officer will seek to finalise the contract with all day centres across Dumfries and Galloway. This will be the end point of a sensitive exercise that addresses the Council's requirements as well as the day centre's individual organisational aims. This means that Member approval is sought to make 100% of the older people day centre funding available for years 1, 2 and 3 within the first quarter.

3.2 Previously the Ad Hoc Sub-committee was advised that day centres for older people would be considered for mainstreaming within Adult Services, with a transfer of funding to support this. Following a review by officers of the implications of such a move the following points are worthy of Member attention:

- Mainstreaming would not ring-fence the day centre budget within Adult Services.
- In prioritising Adult Services' spend, day centres for older people do not meet and are not covered by the statutory requirements of other forms of care and support.
- Mainstreaming would create risk for the ongoing support of Day Centres by exposing their funding within an unring-fenced and competitively prioritised overall Adult Services budget.

3.3 This will allow the day centres to be supported by the Council most appropriately as the day centres are voluntary organisations providing levels of care and support outwith the statutory requirements placed on the Council.

### 4 Conclusions

4.1 The day centres for older people provide a unique and valued service to vulnerable older people in Dumfries and Galloway.

4.2 The support that the Voluntary Sector Ad Hoc Sub Committee is providing to the day centres for older people can be enhanced by the provision of 100% of the budget for 2006/2007 within the first quarter of the financial year.

4.3 The lead officer will continue to work closely with all day centres to ensure that the use of resources are appropriately monitored and evaluated throughout the financial year. The lead officer will conduct a risk assessment across the day centres to determine the most appropriate monitoring for these services.

4.4 The lead officer and the author recognise and recommend to Elected Members that the funding for the day centres for older people be retained within the Voluntary Sector Grant budget to allow Elected Members to consider the best way to support these voluntary sector organisations in future years.

## 5. Consultation

The following have been consulted in the preparation of this report and any comments incorporated:

- Group Manager Adult Services
- Group Manager Community Services
- Business Manager, Community Services
- Director of Finance
- Corporate Support & Governance
- Operations Manager, Legal Services

## 6 Recommendations

Members are requested to agree:

**6.1 for the day centres for older people to receive 100% of their funding from the voluntary sector grant budget for 2006/07-2008/09 inclusive, within the first quarter of the financial year; and**

**6.2 for the budget supporting the day centres for older people to be retained within the voluntary sector grant budget, as the most appropriate budget for these voluntary sector services.**

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