

FALKIRK COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: DECOMMISSIONING OF SACRO SUPPORTED
ACCOMMODATION SERVICE**

MEETING: EXECUTIVE

DATE: 18 JUNE 2013

AUTHOR: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To seek members endorsement of a proposal to decommission the Sacro Tenancy Service and replace with a local authority Tenancy Support Service.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. For a number of years Sacro has been commissioned to provide Tenancy Support Services within Falkirk Council. This developed into a system where Sacro took on council tenancies and became the landlord, before handing the tenancy back to the council if and when the tenant proved they could manage the tenancy adequately.

At its high point this service had three staff members, but over the years there have been a number of developments which has impacted on the range of the Tenancy Support Service and what the local authority now requires to provide for high risk of harm offenders.

3. CURRENT STAFFING

- 3.1. Sacro currently provides one member of staff working 35 hours per week and based in Brockville with the Criminal Justice Social Work Service. Seven hours of administrative support is also included in the cost as are operational support costs. During 2012/2013 the Criminal Justice Social Work Service reduced the funding to cover just one, rather than two posts due to the reduced demands.

4. PROPOSED SACRO COSTS 2013/2014

- 4.1. The proposed costs from Sacro for this financial year are £69,400, which equates to around £38 per hour for tenancy support. This compares to a cost of £17.20 per hour for a 37 hour week if delivered in-house.

5. TENANCY SUPPORT DEVELOPMENTS

Since Sacro started to deliver this service the landscape has considerably changed. The changes include:-

- Housing Services now employ a full time worker to assist with the housing of high risk of harm offenders.
- Housing Services contract with Y-People to provide a range of support to everyone, including offenders
- Research has indicated that in general Tenancy Support Services are best delivered in peoples own homes.
- Satellite Tenancies served a purpose at the time, but there were bureaucratic delays built into the system which sometimes held up the securing of a tenancy from the council or passing a tenancy back to the council. It involved additional costs for a small organisation in collection of rents and maintenance.
- The sometimes critical nature of this service often involves almost daily contact between the Tenancy Support Officer and Criminal Justice Team Manager and it would appear that having direct supervisory control is more advantageous in service delivery for the critical few.

The Criminal Justice Social Work Service has a wider range of support services than previously which also assists with the resettlement and tenancy support. These include seconded staff from Signpost Recovery for persons with addiction issues, a seconded worker from the Richmond Fellowship for persons with challenging behaviour due to mental disorder and the ability to spot purchase support from the Council's provider framework at short notice.

6. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL

- 6.1. The proposal is to use an already existing permanent post (at Grade G) on the establishment.
- 6.2. By revising the job description of the Tenancy Support Officer to include tasks such as Bail Information and Supervision, plus providing the Scottish Prison Service with Home Detention Curfew reports it also ensures that the post is fully utilised to the benefit of the whole service and not just constrained to Tenancy Support.
- 6.4. Because the nature of the Sacro Tenancy Support post is largely similar to the proposed Criminal Justice Tenancy Support post Human Resources have advised that TUPE applies to the Sacro worker currently providing this service. The legal steps necessary to follow the TUPE process will be applied should the proposal be accepted to decommission the Sacro Tenancy Support Service.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1. Administrative Support

The current Service Level Agreement with Sacro for Tenancy Support also includes provision for 7 hours of administrative support at a cost of £6150 in a full year. It is proposed that these 7 hours are retained but the cost is transferred to the funding Sacro receives for provision of Women and Children Services to support the Caledonian System. These costs can be fully funded between the Equality grant which is separate from Section

27 Criminal Justice funding and any shortfall will be covered from the budget of the Criminal Justice Programmes team.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1. Use of savings made

The sum of £69400 saved from this service is proposed to be invested in-

Tenancy Support Post - Grade G FTE costs	£34,680(including employer on costs and £1,500 travel)
Spot purchasing budget for use with third sector	£34,600
Total	£69,400

9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1. Members are asked to :

- Agree to the decommissioning of the Sacro Tenancy Service.
- Agree that the service should be developed in-house.
- Agree that the Criminal Justice Social Work Service proceeds to follow TUPE guidelines in relation to the individual Sacro post-holder affected.

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Background Papers: None